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Meet Ryo ond Dee, two New York City cops with on ottroction for actian—and eoch other!

Ryo is on the biggest cose of his life as he and Dee troil the cold-blooded killer thot murdered Ryo's por-ents. With o little help from Diono Spocey, FBI ogent extroordinoire, they soon cotch up with the perp...but will o lock of evidence turn the murderer loose or turn Ryo into o cold-blooded killer himself?

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VOLUME FIVE

BY SANAMI MATOH

-FAKE-

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Translator - Nan Rymer
English Adaption - Stuart Hazleton
Copy Editors - Bryce P. Coleman & Aaron Sparrow
Retouch and Lettering - Rob Steen
Cover Artist - Raymond Makowski
Editor - Rob Tokar

Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
Production Coordinator - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller & Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Editorial Director - Jeremy Ross
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
President & C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher & C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

Email: editor@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

FAKE volume 5

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-FAKE-

THE STORY SO FAR...

Meet Ryo and Dee, two New York City cops with an attraction for action—and each other! When soft-spoken Detective Randy "Ryo" Macleen is transferred to the NYPD's 27th precinct, he's soon partnered up with Dee Leytner--a cocky, confident cop with attitude to spare. Dee has strong feelings for Ryo and is not reluctant to share them, but Ryo's feelings have been a mystery...both to Dee and himself.

The detectives' first case together involved a drug-related homicide. The victim was a narcotics smuggler, survived only by his young son Bikky. Though a smart-mouthed street punk and a petty criminal-in-the-making, Bikky helped Dee and Ryo foil the drug-smuggling ring that killed his father. Seeing that the tough-talking boy was actually a frightened, sad child with nowhere to go, kind-hearted Ryo took Bikky in...much to Dee's chagrin.

In their second case, the detectives came to the rescue of a young pickpocket named Carol. Carol was stealing wallets to try to get enough money to bail her sick father out of jail before he died, but she ended up picking the pocket of a murderer whose wallet contained a key piece of evidence. In order to protect Carol from the killer and his cohorts, Ryo let her stay with him temporarily.

Even while Dee and Ryo's partnership grew into a bond of friendship, Bikky and Carol became close friends as well, despite the three years between them.

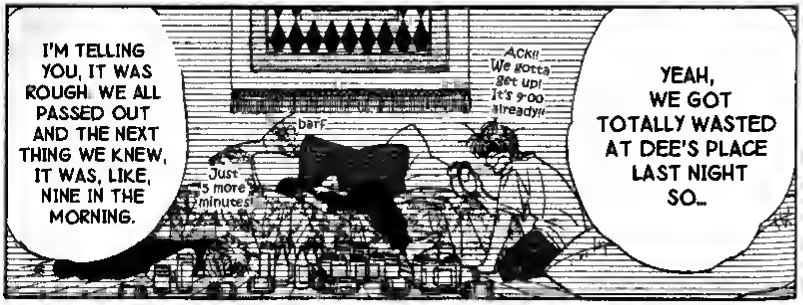
Back at the precinct, a detective by the name of Jimmy "J.J." Adams arrived with a powerful, unrequited crush on Dee left over from their days at the Police Academy. To make matters even more complicated, Ryo and Dee were assigned a new supervisor, Berkeley Rose, who has an obvious crush on Ryo.

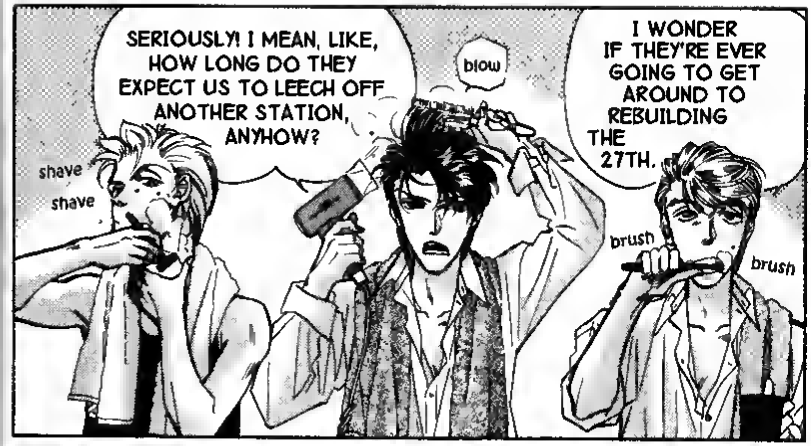
It wasn't long before the emotionally explosive situation at the 27th Precinct became a literally explosive one, as the station was targeted by a serial-bomber. Quick-thinking by Ryo and Dee managed to prevent any human casualties, but their building was a total goner. Now, the officers of the 27th are based at the Bronx Station and, though the accommodations are rather cramped, it's already starting to feel a little like home...

GEEZ, LADIES.
YOU DONE YET?!
Guard

WE OVERSLEPT, DUDE. WHAT CAN I SAY? WE WERE IN A RUSH, OKAY?
BESIDES, SHOULDN'T YOU BE DOING ALL THIS STUFF BEFORE YOU COME IN TO WORK? SHEESH!

UMMM, NOT TO BE RUDE OR ANYTHING, BUT DON'T YOU THINK HOGGING THE BATHROOM IS THE SLIGHTEST BIT OBNOXIOUS? WE'RE ALREADY KIND OF ON THE UNWANTED GUESTS LIST, YOU KNOW.
ALMOST.
Just gotta get some mousse in the hair
gargle
gargle


I'M TELLING YOU, IT WAS ROUGH. WE ALL PASSED OUT AND THE NEXT THING WE KNEW, IT WAS, LIKE, NINE IN THE MORNING.
ACK!! We gotta get up! It's 9:00 already!
barf
Just 5 more minutes!
YEAH, WE GOT TOTALLY WASTED AT DEE'S PLACE LAST NIGHT SO...


SERIOUSLY! I MEAN, LIKE, HOW LONG DO THEY EXPECT US TO LEECH OFF ANOTHER STATION, ANYHOW?
blow
I WONDER IF THEY'RE EVER GOING TO GET AROUND TO REBUILDING THE 27TH.
shave
shave
brush
brush

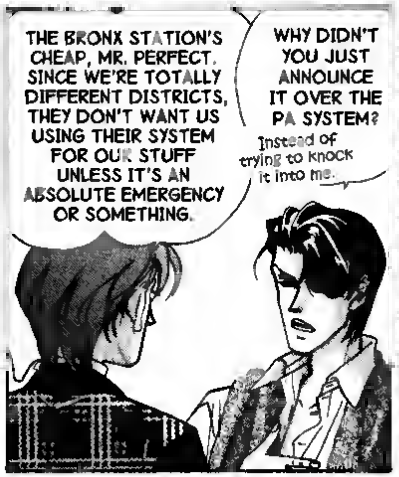
OH YEAH? WELL, HOW'S ABOUT I STOP BY LATER? WE CAN DO LUNCH OR SOMETHING. IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
AT LEAST YOU GUYS AREN'T STUCK OVER AT THE 19TH ALL BY YOURSELF LIKE ME. IT'S LONELY OVER THERE, DAMN IT!

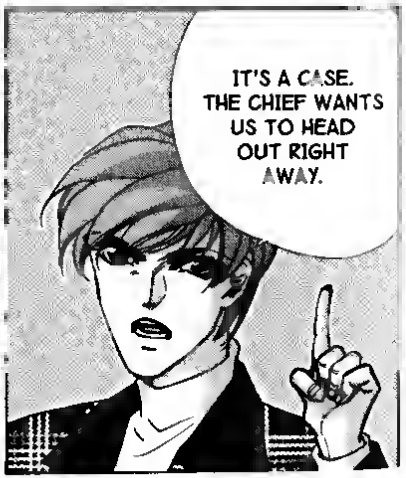
ACTUALLY, I WAS HOPING YOU'D TREAT ME TO LUNCH. COME ON, MAN. I'LL, LIKE, LISTEN TO YOU VENT AND STUFF IN EXCHANGE FOR GETTING TO MOOCH OFF OF YOU.
YEAH, RIGHT.
WAIT A SEC... WE'RE GOING DUTCH? WHY DID YOU EVEN BOTHER ASKING THEN, FOOL?

AS IF. LIKE I'VE EVEN GOT MONEY TO SPEND ON MYSELF.
WHOA, DRAKE. BIG SPENDER! YOUR TREAT?
What have you been smoking, dude?
Yes? No?

DUDE, YOU'RE TOTALLY CUT. YOUR FACE IS, LIKE, SHREDDED.
I'M FINE!!
spurt spurt

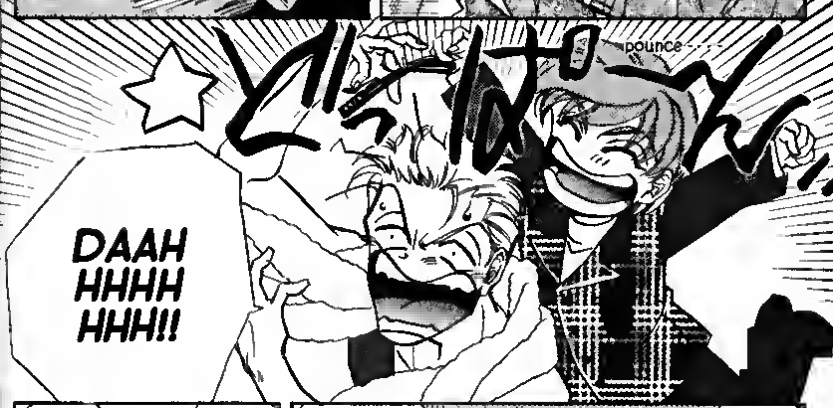
I'M CLASSY, YOU'RE RUDE. NOW, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?
You're both rude.
THAT WAS RUDE TO DODGE ME LIKE THAT, DEE.
NOOOO!!!! THAT HURTS LIKE HELL!!

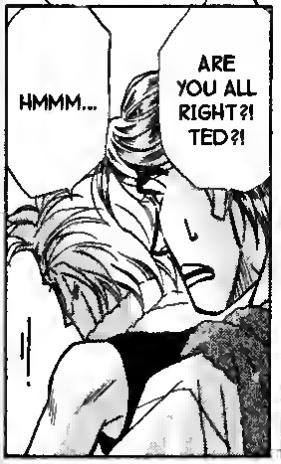

THE BRONX STATION'S CHEAP, MR. PERFECT. SINCE WE'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT DISTRICTS, THEY DON'T WANT US USING THEIR SYSTEM FOR OUR STUFF UNLESS IT'S AN ABSOLUTE EMERGENCY OR SOMETHING.
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST ANNOUNCE IT OVER THE PA SYSTEM?
Instead of trying to knock it into me.


IT'S A CASE. THE CHIEF WANTS US TO HEAD OUT RIGHT AWAY.

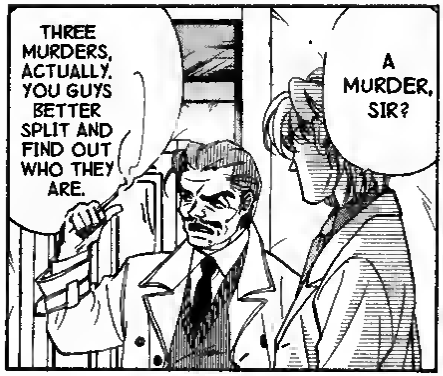
WHOA
Wsss hhh HH hhh

HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT'S THAT RUMBLING?
Dee!!
twitch

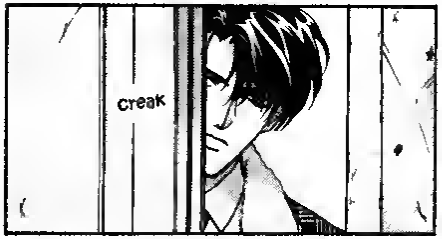

pounce
DAAH HHHH HHH!!


HMMM...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! TED?!

HEY GUYS, UM, WASN'T HE, LIKE, SHAVING?
Ummn. Urr.
HUH?
Whew. Just in the nick of time.
TED!! HOLY SHIT!

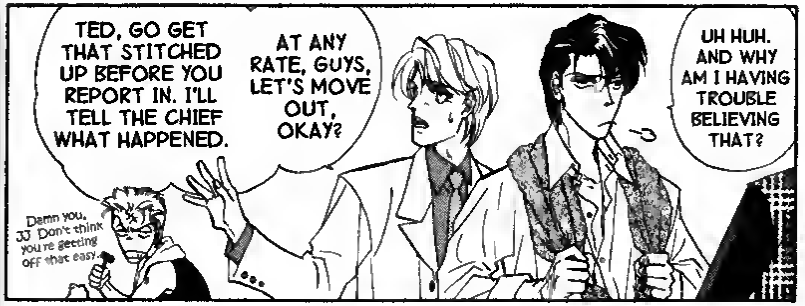

THREE MURDERS, ACTUALLY. YOU GUYS BETTER SPLIT AND FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE.
A MURDER, SIR?

CHIEF.
AH, THERE YOU ARE.

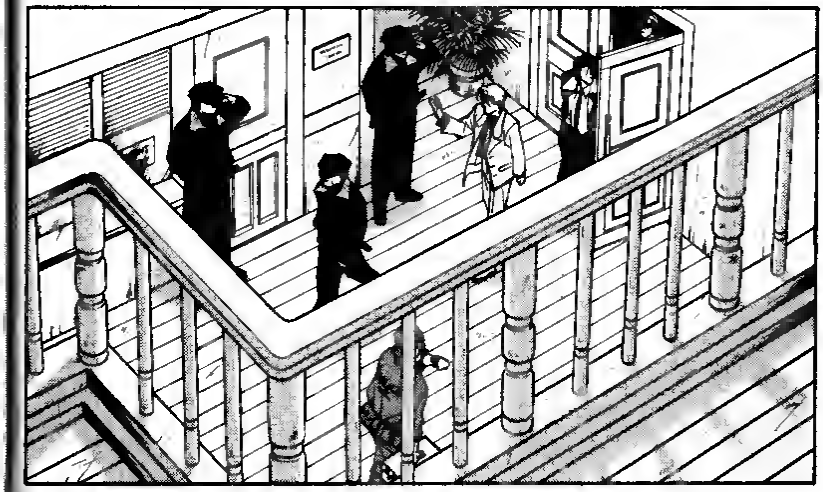

creak

I DOUBT ANY OF THESE GUYS SAW THEIR ATTACKER. NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO ASK THEM TO VERIFY THAT, THOUGH. GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TURN THIS OVER TO THE LAB.

SHEESH, IT WAS A MASSACRE IN HERE. THE PLACE IS PUMPED FULL OF LEAD.

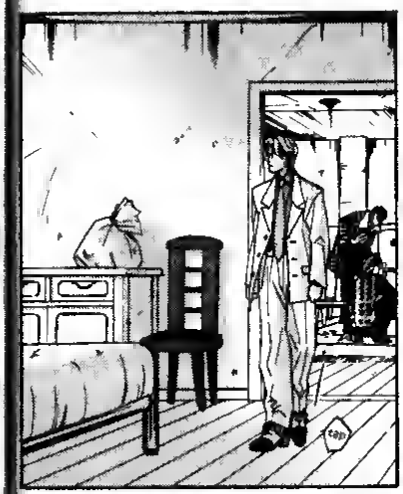

TED, GO GET THAT STITCHED UP BEFORE YOU REPORT IN. I'LL TELL THE CHIEF WHAT HAPPENED.
AT ANY RATE, GUYS, LET'S MOVE OUT, OKAY?
UH HUH. AND WHY AM I HAVING TROUBLE BELIEVING THAT?
Damn you, JJ. Don't think you're getting off that easy.

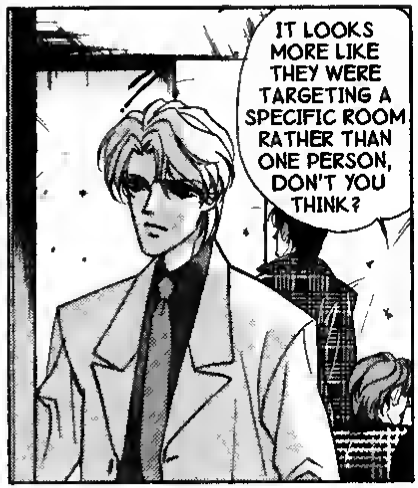
HOTEL
POLICE
DO NOT
POLICE

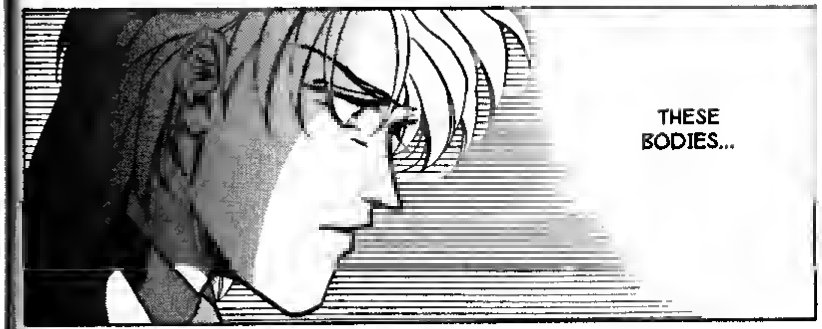


IT'S SO SIMILAR TO THAT TIME...

HUH?
RYO?
SOMETHING WRONG?
tap


tap


IT LOOKS MORE LIKE THEY WERE TARGETING A SPECIFIC ROOM RATHER THAN ONE PERSON, DON'T YOU THINK?

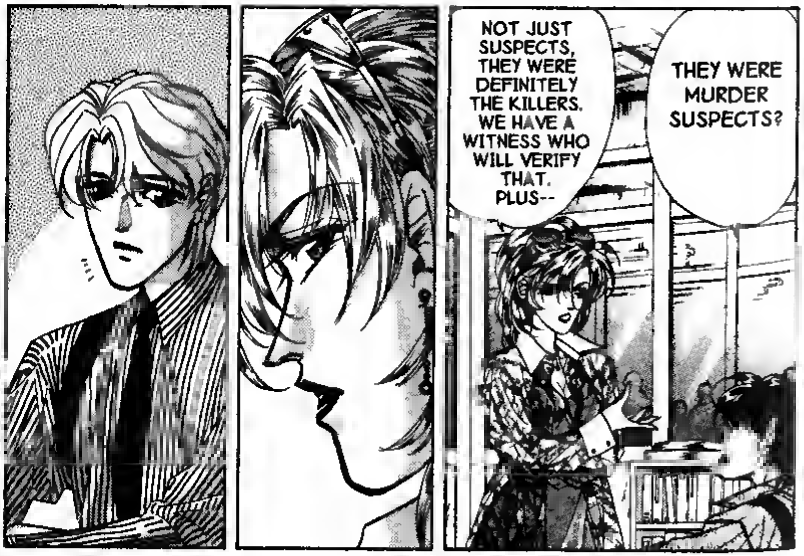

THESE BODIES...

THE LAB'S WORKING ON THEM-NOW, BUT--
BUT WHAT?
WE ALSO RECOVERED A KILO OF COKE AND TWO HAND-GUNS FROM THEIR HOTEL ROOM.
THE OTHER MALE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE SHOP HANDS, BUT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO POSITIVELY I.D. HIM YET.
WELL, THE COKE'S NO BIGGIE, BUT THE F.B.I. IS INTERESTED IN THE FIREARMS WE RECOVERED. THEY'RE SENDING SOMEONE OVER.
THE F.B.I.? AND JUST WHO THE HELL ARE THEY SENDING OVER?

OH, IT--IT'S NOTHING.
THE NEXT DAY...
SHE RAN AN IMPORT BUSINESS OVER IN EUROPE. ONE OF THE OTHER VICTIMS WAS HER HUSBAND, MIKE LUTHER, 42. HE WAS THE OWNER OF THEIR LITTLE PROPRIETORSHIP.
TIME OF DEATH WAS ROUGHLY EIGHTEEN HUNDRED HOURS. THE WOMAN WAS ONE REGGIE LUTHER, AGE 32.
THERE WERE THREE VICTIMS. ONE FEMALE, TWO MALE.

UMM, URR, SO SERIOUSLY NOW--WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, DIANA?
Pbbhhhttt
Oh yeah?
I NEVER PRETENDED TO BE MR. HAPPY-- I'M NOT SOME FRIGGIN' BOOT LICKER. SO THERE.

THOSE THREE DEAD BODIES YOU FOUND.. WELL, BEFORE THEY GOT THEIR JUST DESSERTS, THEY WERE ON A LITTLE KILLING SPREE OF THEIR OWN IN MILWAUKEE. TOOK OUT TWO PEOPLE.
OH YEAH, I ALMOST FORGOT. I'M HERE ABOUT THOSE FIREARMS YOU RECOV-ERED.

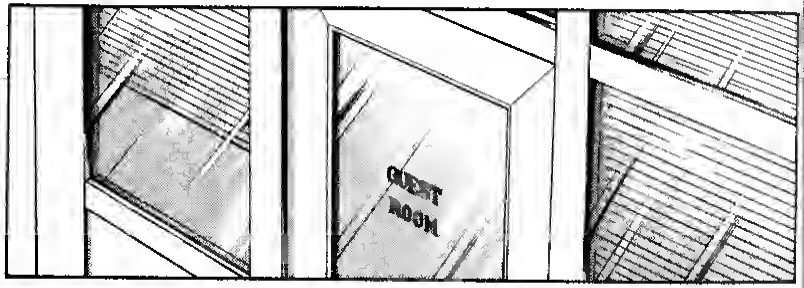

NOT JUST SUSPECTS, THEY WERE DEFINITELY THE KILLERS. WE HAVE A WITNESS WHO WILL VERIFY THAT. PLUS--
THEY WERE MURDER SUSPECTS?

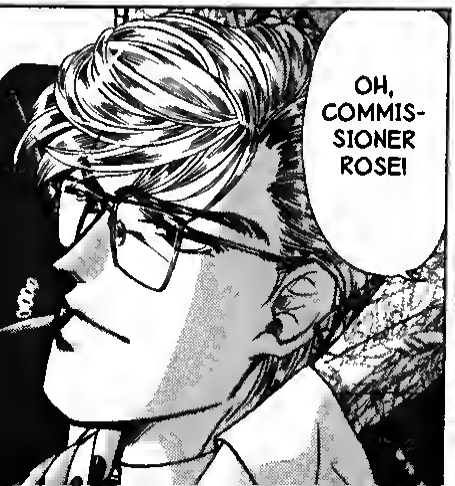
ACK!!
WHO ELSE, SILLY BOY? AWW, YOU'RE SOOO NOT FUN.
DIANA SPACEY?!
YOU ALL LOOK AS IF YOU'RE DOING WELL.
LONG TIME NO SEE, LADIES.
Geez, just as trippy as ever aren't we? I'm surprised none of your superiors have written you up on dress code violation yet.

I SEE YOU'RE AS SUNNY AS ALWAYS, EH DEE? I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT ATTITUDE LATER.
Hmf.
SO. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR NECK OF THE WOODS, HUH? RUN OUT OF PEOPLE TO JINX UPSTATE?

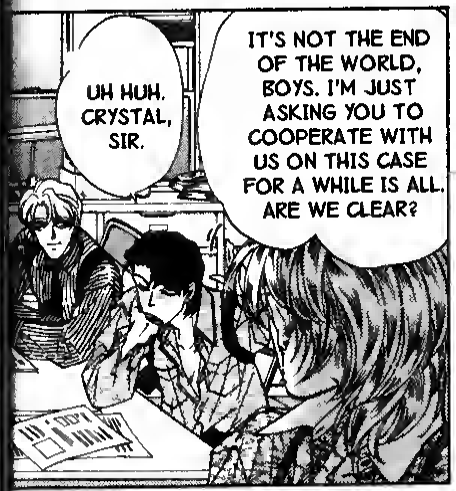
.....

CLOSE


GUEST
ROOM


OH, COMMIS-SIONER ROSE!

SO WILL THE F.B.I. BE TAKING OVER THIS CASE THEN?
POSSIBLY.
--THEIR MURDERS HAVE A LOT TO DO WITH A BIG DRUG-SMUGGLING CARTEL I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING FOR SOME TIME NOW. IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?

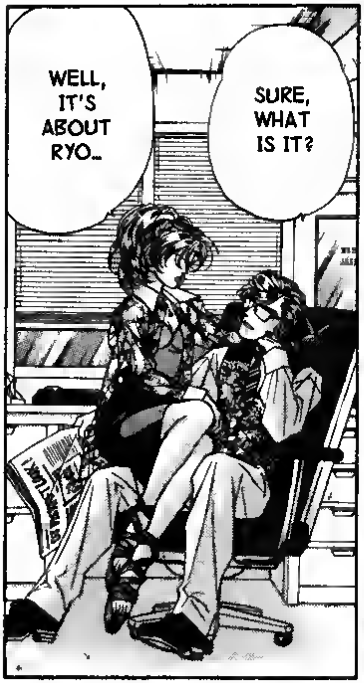

UH HUH. CRYSTAL, SIR.
IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD, BOYS. I'M JUST ASKING YOU TO COOPERATE WITH US ON THIS CASE FOR A WHILE IS ALL. ARE WE CLEAR?

AWWW, DON'T BE SUCH A SORE LOSER.
BARGING IN ON OUR TURF AND THEN STEALING OUR CASES. GEEZ, HOW LOW CAN YOU GUYS GO, HUH?
hmmph

Bye!
WELL, I'M OFF. I'LL BE HANGING AROUND HERE AND THERE, SO MOST LIKELY WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN. TAKE CARE.
click

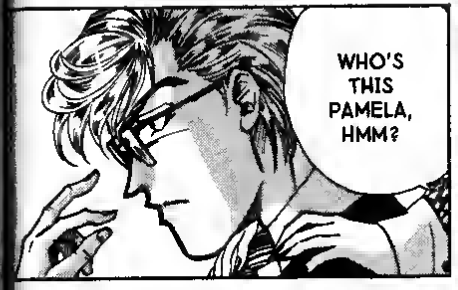
W-WHY, YOU OF COURSE, DIANA. THOUGH YOU REALLY LOOK KIND OF SCARY RIGHT NOW.
creepy!
grip
SO, OF THOSE TWO AND ME, WHO'S THE PRETTIEST OF ALL?!

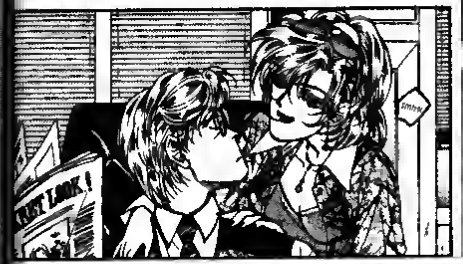
WHEW. GOT OUT OF THAT ONE.
Awww, he said I'm the prettiest.
push
YOU'RE SOOO HONEST, YOU SILLY, WITTLE BERKEY. BUT I FORGIVE YOU!


WELL, IT'S ABOUT RYO..
SURE, WHAT IS IT?

IS IT SAFE TO ASSUME THAT, SINCE YOU'RE IN NEW YORK, YOU'RE WORKING ON A CASE?

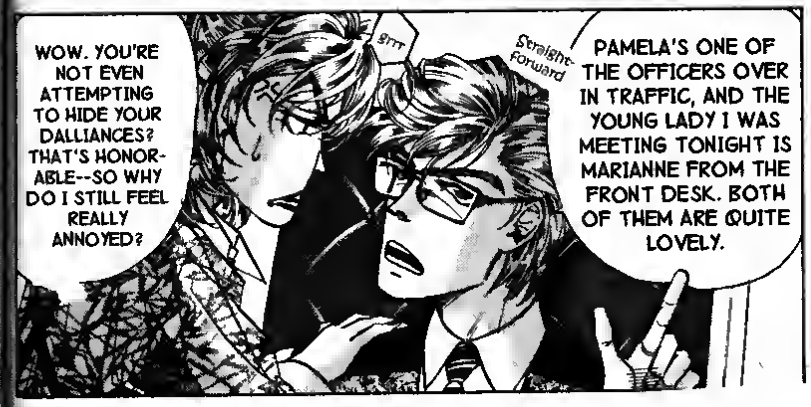
THAT'S RIGHT. AND THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT I WANTED TO RUN BY YOU.

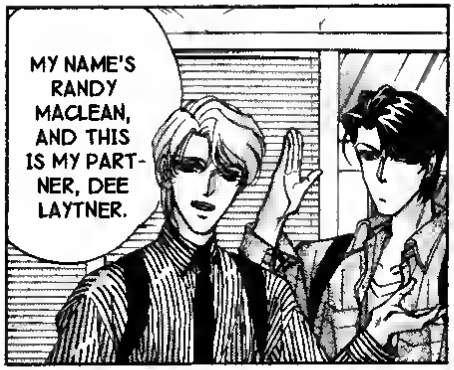

WHO'S THIS PAMELA, HMM?


FAST LOOK!

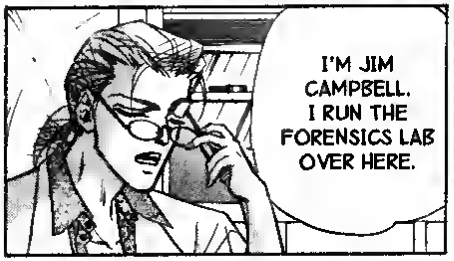
LOOK, PAMELA. I THINK YOU'RE A GREAT GIRL. ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING.. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, I ALREADY HAVE PLANS FOR THIS EVENING, SO--
Heh...
LOOK!

SO YOU'VE GOT PLANS TONIGHT, BERKELEY?
AND JUST WHOM WOULD THOSE BE WITH?
DIANA?! WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?

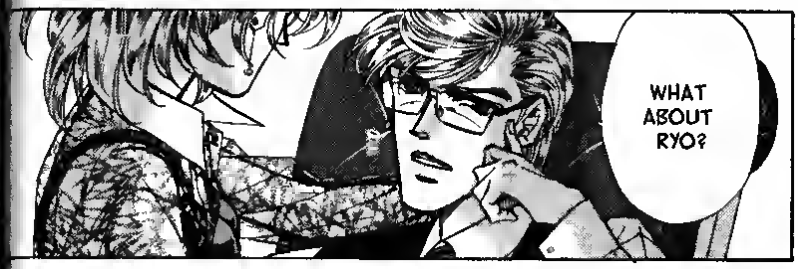

WOW. YOU'RE NOT EVEN ATTEMPTING TO HIDE YOUR DALLIANCES? THAT'S HONORABLE--SO WHY DO I STILL FEEL REALLY ANNOYED?
grrr
Straightforward
PAMELA'S ONE OF THE OFFICERS OVER IN TRAFFIC, AND THE YOUNG LADY I WAS MEETING TONIGHT IS MARIANNE FROM THE FRONT DESK. BOTH OF THEM ARE QUITE LOVELY.


MY NAME'S RANDY MACLEAN, AND THIS IS MY PART-NER, DEE LAYTNER.

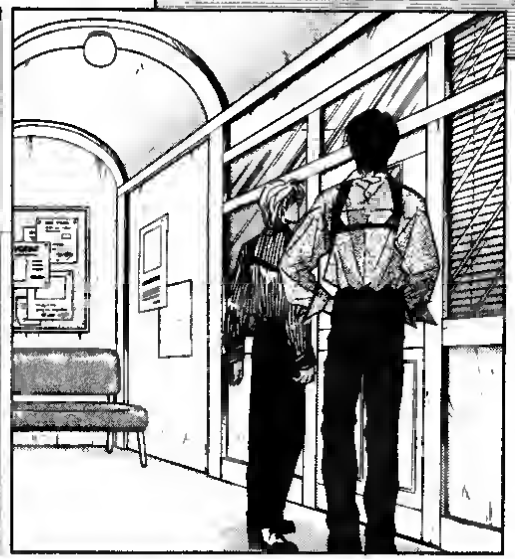
YES, SIR.
HMM. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FELLOWS AROUND HERE BEFORE. YOU TWO FROM THE 27TH?

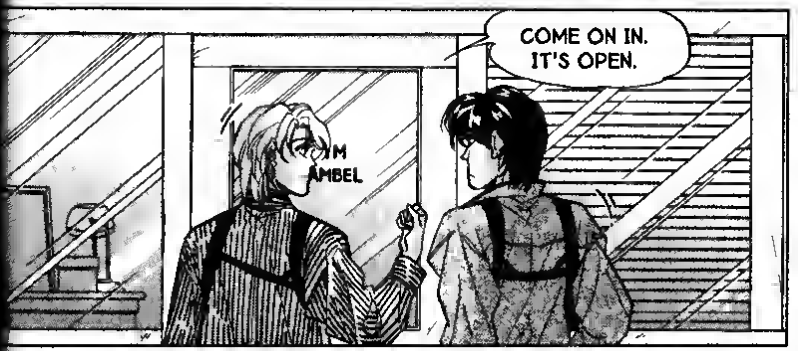

I'M JIM CAMPBELL. I RUN THE FORENSICS LAB OVER HERE.

JUST CALL ME JIM.
Erin


WHAT ABOUT RYO?

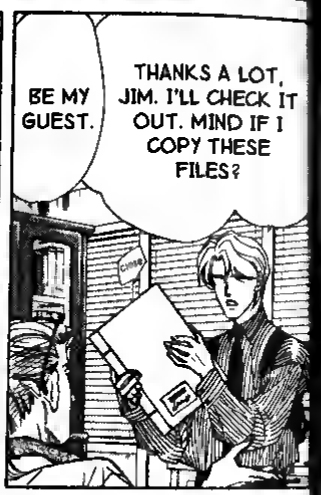
knock
knock




COME ON IN. IT'S OPEN.
M
AMBEL

.....
I THINK THERE'S A STRONG CHANCE OF THAT TOO.

OEE, I'M GOIHG TO WORK OH THIS FOR AWHILE--WHY OON'T YOU SEE IF YOU CAH FINO OUT A BIT MORE ABOUT WHAT OUR VICTIMS WERE OOING HERE? THE HOW AHO THE WHY?


BE MY GUEST.
THANKS A LOT, JIM. I'LL CHECK IT OUT. MIND IF I COPY THESE FILES?

HMM?
HEY, YO! HOLD UP!

GREAT. THEN I'LL CALL YOU AROUND EIGHT AND REPORT IN, OKAY? BYE!
YEAH, SURE. I CAN DO THAT, BUT--
pat

I'VE IHCLUOED THE ACTUAL IHVESTIGATION FILES IH AODITIOH TO MY OWH LAB FINOIHGS. NOTICE ANYTHIHG OOO ABOUT THEM?
THESE ARE TWO OTHER MURDERS THAT'VE COME MY WAY, COURTESY OF THE BRONX STATIOH, OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS.
rustle

WE UNOERSTAHO YOU HAVE A POSSIBLE LEAO REGARDING OUR CASE?

AHH, YES. HERE, TAKE A LOOK AT THESE.

THE MAHHER IH WHICH THE MUROERS WERE COMMITTED. IS EXACTLY THE SAME M.O. AS THE CASE WE'RE WORKIHG ON.
BOTH OF THESE ARE RELATED TO DRUG SMUGGLING OPERATIONS. AND--

UH HUH. AND I'M ALMOST POSITIVE I'VE SEEN THE SAME M.O. AT ANOTHER STATION. I'M THINKING THE SAME PERSON OR PERSONS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THESE DEATHS.

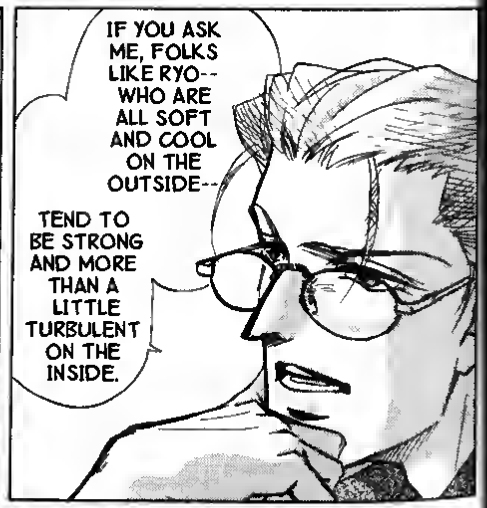
That little bastard.
HE'S HIDING SOME-THING.

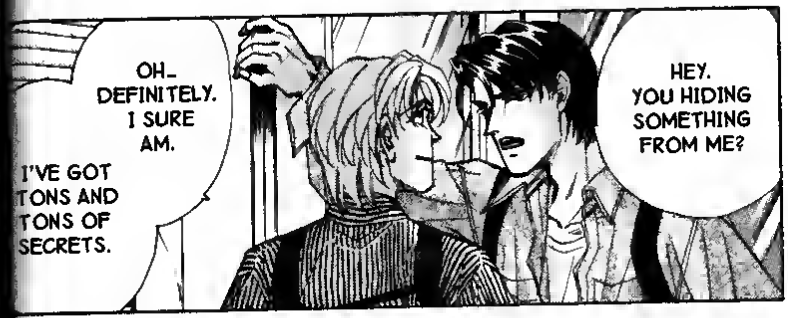
DAMN
close

YOU TWO INVOLVED OR SOMETHING?

WELL, GEE, THANKS FOR BEING SO UNDERSTANDING. BUT, FOR THE RECORD, I LIKE CHICKS TOO-- NOT JUST DUDES.
BUT I'M NOT SOME HOMOPHOBIC LOSER. ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL AND ALL THAT JAZZ.
DON'T WORRY. I LIKE GIRLS MYSELF...

OBSERVA-TION'S MY JOB, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
HEY, DUDE, YOU'VE GOT PRETTY GOOD PEOPLE SKILLS... ESPECIALLY FOR JUST MEETING HIM.


IF YOU ASK ME, FOLKS LIKE RYO-- WHO ARE ALL SOFT AND COOL ON THE OUTSIDE--
TEND TO BE STRONG AND MORE THAN A LITTLE TURBULENT ON THE INSIDE.


HEY. YOU HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME?
OH- DEFINITELY. I SURE AM.
I'VE GOT TONS AND TONS OF SECRETS.

RYO, I'M SERIOUS.

I

RYO!
LOOK, I PROMISE I'LL CALL YOU AT EIGHT. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR CELL WITH YOU. AND KEEP IT ON, OKAY?

WHY YOU--!! WHY THE HELL ARE YOU LAUGHING SO HARD? I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE!!
rawr
Ba ha ha ha, ha ha, ha!!
はは

One of those people who has trouble stopping once he starts laughing.
Ah ha
Ah ha
Hii!..
HA HA HA... YOU'RE OKAY, DEE. HA HA--YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. I LIKE YOU.

DUDE, THAT HURTS. AND JUST HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU PLAN ON LAUGHING, HUH?
TELL YOU WHAT. WHY DON'T WE GO OUT AND HAVE SOME DRINKS SOMETIME? MY TREAT.
whap
whap
snicker snicker chortle

WELL THEN, YOU'RE BUYING. AND I WANT FOOD TOO.
SORRY. BUT_ I JUST_ CAN'T_ STOP.

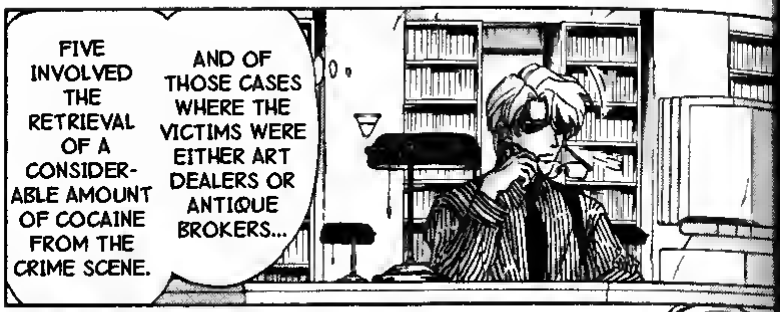
HEY, JIM. THINK YOU CAN OBSERVE ONE OTHER THING?

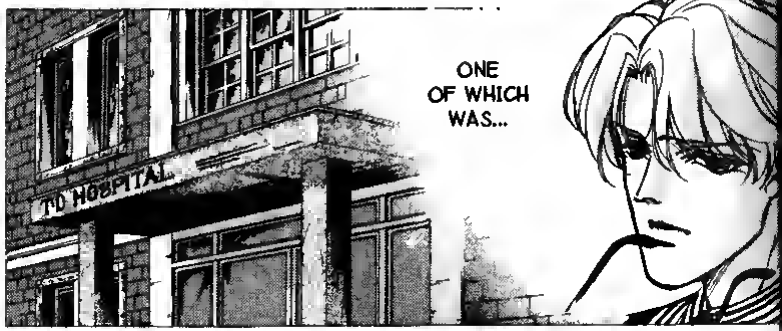
WHAT'S THAT?

HMMM. YEAH, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT.
AND, GOING OUT ON A LIMB HERE, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO HAVE BEEN IN A TUG OF WAR FOR SOME TIME NOW, HAVEN'T YOU? MY GUESS WOULD BE THAT YOU'RE ON THE LOSING SIDE MORE OFTEN THAN HE IS, THOUGH

AM I REALLY THAT UNRELIABLE?

SNORT

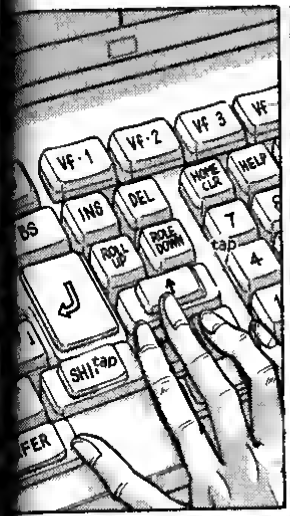

FIVE INVOLVED THE RETRIEVAL OF A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF COCAINE FROM THE CRIME SCENE.
AND OF THOSE CASES WHERE THE VICTIMS WERE EITHER ART DEALERS OR ANTIQUE BROKERS...

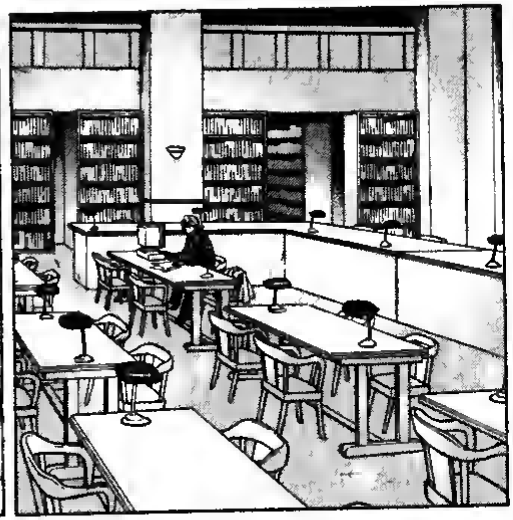

ONE OF WHICH WAS...

Creak

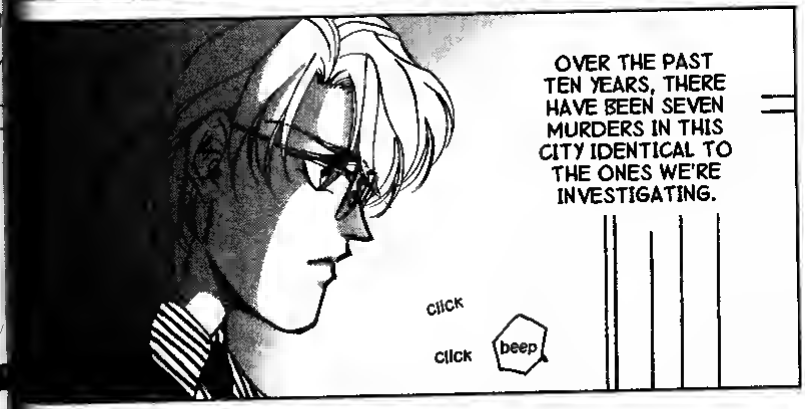
IT'S OKAY, AUNT ELENA.
RYO, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO SEE THEM. I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO THE POLICE. WE'RE DONE WITH THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.

I WANT TO.





beep
MURDER HAS A NEW QUEENS ADDRESS!!


OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVEN MURDERS IN THIS CITY IDENTICAL TO THE ONES WE'RE INVESTIGATING.
click
click
beep

DID YOU ASK ME THAT QUESTION BECAUSE YOU FOUND SOMETHING ILLEGAL IN THEIR POSSESSION?

WAIT, ELENA.
BUT RYO--
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

YES. THAT'S RIGHT.

I NEVER HEARD THEM SAY ANYTHING OF THE SORT. BESIDES...

...MY MOTHER AND FATHER ARE INNOCENT!! THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!!

DID YOUR PARENTS EVER MENTION ANYTHING ODD TO YOU?

LOOK ERE, YOU. I NDERSTAND HIS IS YOUR JOB AND ALL, BUT OULDN'T IT--
LIKE THAT THEY WERE HOLDING OR TAKING CARE OF SOMETHING IMPORTANT FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE OR--

IN THE END, THERE WASN'T ENOUGH EVIDENCE OFFERED BY THE STATE TO DETERMINE MY PARENTS' GUILT OR INVOLVEMENT, BUT IN THE EYES OF MY RELATIVES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AUNT ELENA, IT WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER.
beep
tap tap
WERE THE VICTIMS FOUND NOT GUILTY. IF I COULD JUST FIGURE OUT WHO KILLED THEM, THEN...
OF THE TEN OR SO CASES FOLLOWING THE SAME M.O., ONLY IN MY PARENT'S CASE...
WAIT A SECOND. THAT PICTURE--
beep
tap
tap
CLICK CLICK

DON'T EVEN WASTE YOUR TIME STRESSING OVER THAT IDIOT. WHAT DO THE COPS KNOW, ANYHOW? YOU CAN'T TRUST ANY OF THEM TO DO THEIR JOBS!!
ELENA--
--I'M GOING TO BECOME A COP.
GRIP
I PROMISE YOU!

beep
THE MURDERER
WAS ARRESTED

THAT'S..!

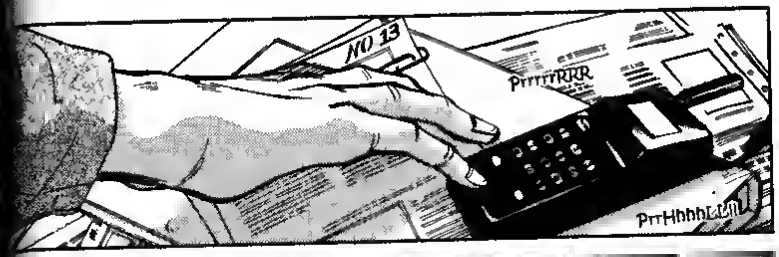
SEEMS THAT AFTER OUR THREE VICTIMS ARRIVED IN NEW YORK..
THEY HAD A MEETING WITH REGGIE LUTHER'S YOUNGER BROTHER.
I MANAGED TO SNAG HIS ADDRESS...
SO I PLAN ON HEADING OUT THERE FIRST THING TOMORROW.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I WENT OVER TO THE RESEARCH LIBRARY WITH THE FILES JIM PREPPED FOR US.
I FOUND A BUNCH OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS. PAST CASES THAT MIGHT HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO OURS.
PHONE

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
UH, HUH. OKAY. TALK TO YOU TOMORROW THEN.

FIND ANYTHING OUT?
URR, WELL... NO. NOTHING, REALLY.

LOOK, IT'S GETTING LATE. LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS TOMORROW AT THE STATION, OKAY?


NO 13
PrrrrrrrrR
PrrHhhhhLLLLL!

AND WHAT WERE YOU OING TO SAY IT WASN'T, HUH, DEE?

RYO, IS THAT YOU?
DEE

I'M BACK AT THE STATION RIGHT NOW. THE ONLY PERSON WHO'D CALL ME UP HERE IS YOU.
HOW'D IT GO ON YOUR END?
DUST

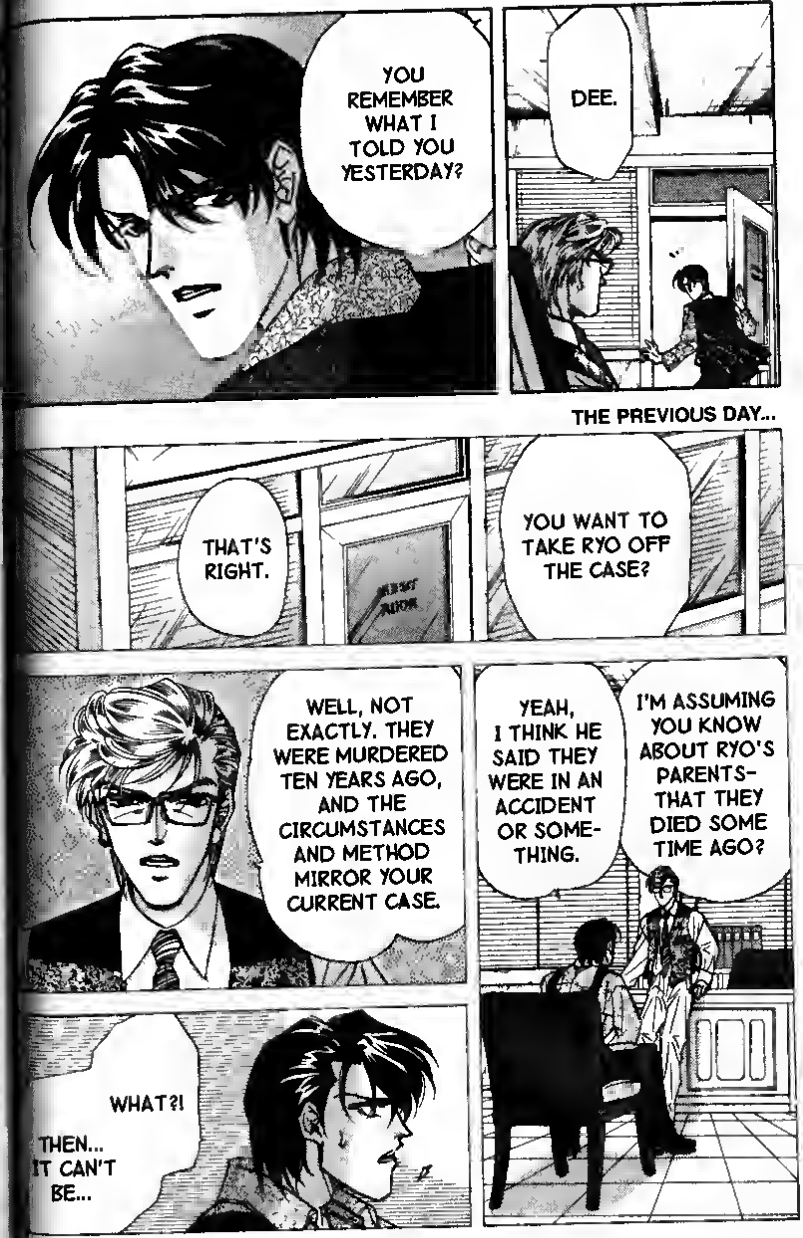
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HEAD HOME.
HUH? URH, YEAH. YES, I AM.
glance glance
YOU ALONE RIGHT NOW?
?!
WELL, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT. STEP INTO MY OFFICE.
OH, HEY.
MORNING, DEE.
pat

Note- Actually, it's the afternoon

I'LL CUT STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
DEE?
AHH, YES SIR?
DETECTIVE MACLEAN
STOP BY?
SURE. BUT THERE'S SOMEWHERE WE NEED TO STOP BY FIRST.
THE MEETING ROOM'S OPEN, SO I WAS THINKING WE COULD HEAD OVER THERE AND GO OVER A FEW THINGS FROM YESTERDAY.
AS OF RIGHT NOW...
I'M DROPPING BOTH YOU AND DETECTIVE LAYTNER FROM THIS CASE.
WHAT ??!
CLICK
COMMIS-SIONER.
DIANA.
COME IN.
GUEST ROOM
KNOCK KNOCK
ISN'T THIS THE GUEST ROOM THE COMMISH IS USING AS HIS TEMPORARY OFFICE?

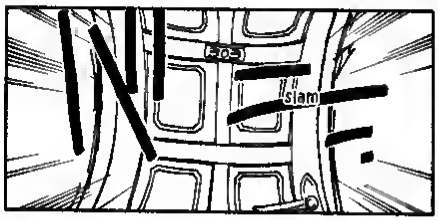
YOU'RE OISMISSED, OETECTIVE MACLEAN.
COMMIS-SIONER, I CAN DO THIS.
DEAL WITH IT, RYO!
STOP IT, RYO.
COMMISSIONER ROSE!!
WAIT, RYO!!
dart
DEE...
grit
EVEN IF IT'S INDIRECTLY, YOUR FAMILY'S STILL INVOLVED, AND FOR THAT, I CAN'T HAVE YOU ON THIS CASE ANY LONGER.
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULO ALREAOY KNOW WHY IT'S NECES-SARY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CAN'T DO THAT, SIR. NOT AFTER--
Hah!!
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
LOOK, RYO, IT'S NOT LIKE I OON'T UNDERSTANO HOW YOU FEEL, BUT LOOK AT YOURSELF-- YOU'RE ALREAOY A TOTAL MESS. I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO OROP YOU FROM THE CASE. I CAN'T HAVE SOMEONE EMOTIONALLY TIED TO THE CASE WORKING WITH ME. IT COULO COMPRO-MISE EVERYTHING.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I TOLD HIM. I STUMBLED ACROSS YOUR PARENTS' CASE WHEN I WAS INVESTIGATING ONE OF MY OWN.

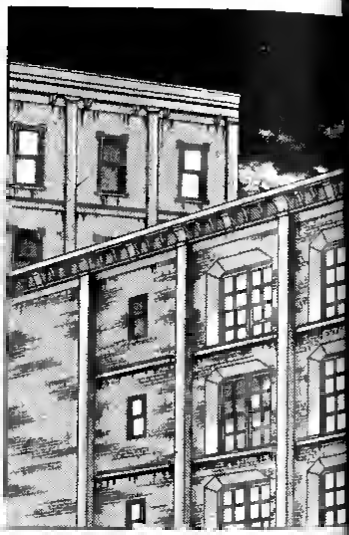
HUH? WELL...
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THE PERP IN BOTH CASES IS ONE AND THE SAME. HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY ABOUT RYO LATELY?
HE'S BEEN ACTING LIKE HE'S HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME, YOU KNOW?
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
UH... IT IT'S NOTHING.
COME ON, NOW-- THIS IS ABOUT HIS PARENTS.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU TELL HIM TO STOP HE'S GOING TO SAY "OKAY" AND TURN TO SOMETHING ELSE?
THEN HE'S MOST LIKELY FIGURED SOMETHING OUT... OR WORSE, HE'S ALREADY STARTED HIS OWN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MATTER.
I WANT YOU TO BRING HIM RIGHT HERE AS SOON AS HE SHOWS UP TOMORROW.

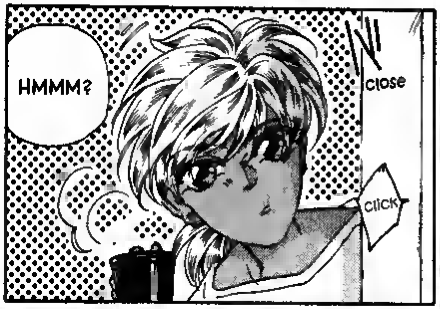

YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY?
DEE.
THE PREVIOUS DAY...
THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU WANT TO TAKE RYO OFF THE CASE?
WELL, NOT EXACTLY. THEY WERE MURDERED TEN YEARS AGO, AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND METHOD MIRROR YOUR CURRENT CASE.
YEAH, I THINK HE SAID THEY WERE IN AN ACCIDENT OR SOMETHING.
I'M ASSUMING YOU KNOW ABOUT RYO'S PARENTS- THAT THEY DIED SOME TIME AGO?
WHAT?!
THEN... IT CAN'T BE...

BUT IF DEE CAN'T DO IT, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY-ONE ELSE HERE THAT COULD.
TRUE ON BOTH POINTS.
And sheesh, could Dee be any more brash? Doubt it.
YOU THINK DEE'LL BE ALL RIGHT? RYO CAN BE PRETTY STUBBORN WHEN HE WANTS TO BE, YOU KNOW.
Giggle.
YOU'RE ALSO VERY KIND.
I'M NOT COM-PLETELY STUPID.
OH MY DID YOU REALLY SAY THAT? I'D BELIEVE YOU IF YOU NAD SAID, "IF DEE CAN'T DO IT, I COULD, BUT THAT..WELL THAT WAS SOME-TNING ELSE.
KNOW WHAT?
NAH, I THINK I JUST KNOW.
HA NA HA! IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE DESCRIBING A BULL OR A BUCK OR SOMETNING. BUT TNEN AGAIN--
Which is totally not you, huh, Berks?
And for the record, not just a foolish personality, but an actual fool
THAT RYO COULD ONLY FALL FOR SOMEONE...
WITH A HOT-HEADED, STRAIGHT-CHARGING, UNYIELDINGLY FOOLISH PERSONALITY.
FOR ONCE WE'RE IN AGREEMENT, DEE. I DOUBT RYO WILL GIVE TNE CASE UP WITNOUT A FIGNT.
EVEN IF NE SAYS NE WILL, I EXPECT NIM TO KEEP INVESTIGATING ON HIS OWN TIME-- PERNAPS EVEN DO SOMETHING STUPID OR RASN. TNAT'S WNY--
HUH?
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FIRST.
--I'M ASKING YOU TO STOP HIM WHEN HE DOES!
close
LIKE YOU HAD TO ASK ME TO DO THAT.

Hey now...
What the hell?
LET ME THROUGH, PLEASE. DAMN IT!!
Kya!!


slam




HMMM?
close
click

WELL, I GUESS MY PLANS GOT CHANGED, DIDN'T THEY?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON THIRD SHIFT TODAY?
strut
strut
strut
strut
dinner

WELL THEN, WE SEEM TO BE ON THE SAME PAGE, EH?

--IT KINDA SOUNDS LIKE YOU COULD BE DESCRIBING DEE.
Erin

snub

RYO!!
RYO!! WAIT UP!!
Token entry to all trains

Heh, heh. Shave it!
YOU'LL REGRET THOSE WORDS, BIKKY.
HEY, RYO'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME NOT TO LET YOU IN, AND AS A GOOD LITTLE BOY, I NEED TO DO EXACTLY AS HE SAYS.
You little snot!!
Ka ka ka
WHAT?!
SORRY, DEE. HE'S HERE BUT HE TOLD ME NOT TO LET YOU IN.
NOPE, NO CAN DO. NO WAY, NO HOW.
COME ON, BIKKY. JUST LET ME IN, WILL YA?
WHAT?! YOU LITTLE BRAT!! OPEN UP OR I'LL BUST YOUR ASS ALL THE WAY TO SHANGHAI!!
?
OOOH!! PERFECT TIMING!! LUCKY DAY!!
HEYA, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
Slam!
ACK!
BIKKY, DEE'LL PROBABLY STOP BY TODAY...BUT WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LET HIM IN!! GOT IT?!
EH? AHH, OKAY.
Wonder if he got into a fight with that idiot, Dee?
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? THAT'S SOME BAD MOOD HE'S IN--
bang
RYO?! YOU THERE?!
RYO?!
bang
bang
bang
rattle rattle
bang
HMM?

TRAI-TOR? HUH?
What?
SHUT UP, TRAITOR!!
THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT!! OPEN UP, DAMN IT!!
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT! GET OUT OF HERE AND GO HOME!!
DAMN! RYO, WOULD YOU AT LEAST HEAR M OUT?
bang
bang
bang
I EXPECTED YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, TO UNDERSTAND!!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, IDIOT!!
bamn
WHAT?!
Ooooooo!!
KYAHHH!! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? LET GO OF ME!! NOOOO!!
Take that... And that!!
ALL RIGHT, BIKKY, YOU'VE LEFT ME NO CHOICE!! IF YOU DON'T LET ME IN NOW, I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL VIOLATE CAROL RIGHT HERE AS WE SPEAK!!
boot
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM HER YOU STINKING, PEDOPHILE, BISEXUAL BITCH!! I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN THAT FAR, DAMN IT!!
YO. THAT'S ALL HE DID? I GOT TRICKED.
WAAHHHH!! HOW COULD HE?! THAT BEAST!! HE TOTALLY RUINED MY HAIR!! AND I JUST GOT IT DONE!! WHY ME?! WHY?!
Can you believe it!
sob
DAMN IT. HE LOCKED THIS DOOR TOO.
rattle rattle
DORK. YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW. ADULTS USE DIRTY TACTICS. THANKS FOR LETTING ME IN, DUDE.
HUH?
bop

THIS HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTNING TO OO WITN BIKKY, SO LEAVE NIM OUT OF TNIS!! ANO YOU NAVE NO RIGNT TO SAY--
YOU DICK!!!
CLICK

VHnnNNNNN

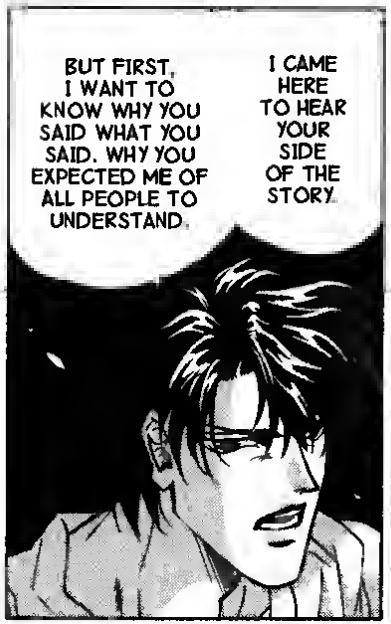
HUH?!
BIKKY!! GET YOUR STUFF TOGETHER!!

I GO TH YOU, E MORE WISTED N EVER.
BUT COME WITN ME ANO I PROMISE I'LL SMACK YOU UP NOW ANO TNEN TO KEEP YOU ON TNE STRAIGHT ANO NARROW.
Quiet over there
Seriously.

YOU'RE GONNA RUN AWAY! YOU KEEP STAYING HERE WITH HIM AND YOU'LL GROW UP JUST AS TWISTED AND BROKEN AS HE IS!!
WHY? DO YOU EVEN HAVE TO ASK, DOLT?
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
And when did I ever give you the right to speak for me?

YOU WANT TO SAY GOODBYE, YOU BETTER SAY IT NOW, MR. I'M-A-TWISTED-ASS-SELFISH-IDIOT!!

YEAH. HE TOLD ME TO STOP YOU FROM DOING WHATEVER YOU WERE THINKING OF DOING TOO.
WAS IT THE COMMISSIONER WHO TOLD YOU ABOUT MY PARENTS?


BUT FIRST, I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU SAID WHAT YOU SAID. WHY YOU EXPECTED ME OF ALL PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND.
I CAME HERE TO HEAR YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU CAME...

HELL, NO.
WHAT?

IF YOU REALLY THOUGHT THAT, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO HIDE IT FROM ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.
DON'T LIE TO ME.
BECAUSE... BECAUSE I FIGURED IF YOU KNEW WHY, THEN YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

SHEESH. ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT.
Next time you two want to fight, take it outside.

BIKKY.
ACK. WHAT THE HELL IS IT THIS TIME?

WHY DON'T YOU GO FOOL AROUND WITH CAROL OR SOMETHING.
WHAT? WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, HUH?
COULD YOU PLEASE GO THE HELL AWAY FOR A SECOND?!

rustle
close

creak

SIT DOWN.

HEY, NOW, I'M NOT BLAMING YOU FOR ANYTHING.

BUT I WAS PRETTY DEPRESSED THAT, WELL, THAT YOU THOUGHT I WASN'T RELIABLE...

I'M SORRY. I...I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOU..

Yeah, I know...

AND BY THE WAY, RYO--
DEE..

--I MAY NOT HAVE PARENTS, BUT I DO HAVE SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR ME-- AND WHO I CARE FOR-- MORE THAN ANYTHING. YOU KNOW THAT!!

I THINK THAT MEANS I CAN'T REALLY BLAME YOU EVEN IF I WANT TO, HUH?
...OR TRUSTWORTHY ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHAT HAPHENED TO YOUR PARENTS. THOUGH I GUESS THAT TYPE OF THING JUST DOESN'T COME UP IN EVERYDAY CONVERSATION.

SO I--WELL... I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO LOSE SOMEONE DEAR TO ME!

BUT THEN THE CASE BEAT ME TO IT, SO..
--I WAS PLANNING TO TELL YOU. I SWEAR.

DEE--

I

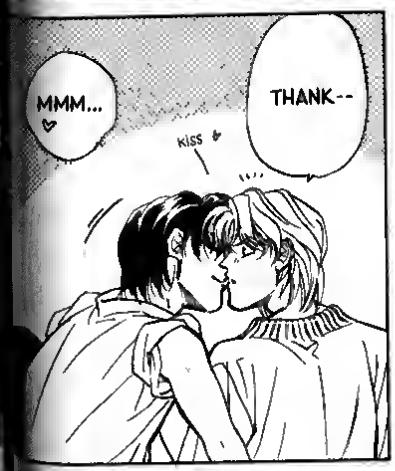
NOW... LET'S MAKE THIS A REAL THANK YOU.
NNNMM...
HMMM?!
rummage rummage

GET YOUR HANDS OUT OF THERE!! HEY!! I SAID-- WAAHHH!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!? WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!!
W-WAIT, HOLD UP, DEE!!

HUH?
SO FILL ME IN. HOW FAR HAVE YOU GOTTEN?

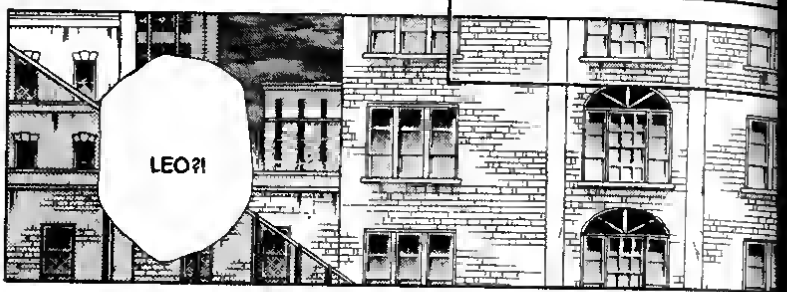
DEE, I CAN'T LET OU DO THAT. OU'LL GET IN ROUBLE TOO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
YOU PLAN ON CONTINUING YOUR INVESTIGATION, RIGHT? I'LL HELP YOU, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO FILL ME IN FIRST.

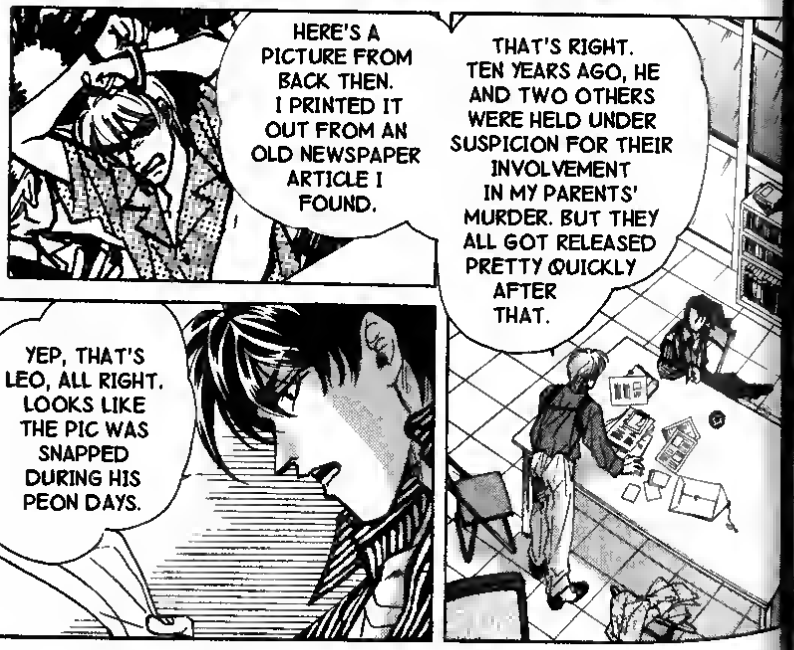
BUT I'M STILL GOING TO BE THERE TO STOP YOU. GOT IT? SO WHAT OO YOU SAY? WE ON?
YOU CAN WHINE ANO KICK ANO SCREAM AS MUCH AS YOU WANT...
THE COMMISSIONER'S ALREAOY WELL AWARE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO TRY SOMETHING STUPIO ON YOUR OWN. THIS WAY, I'LL BE THERE TO STOP YOU BEFORE YOU OO.


MMM...
THANK--
KISS

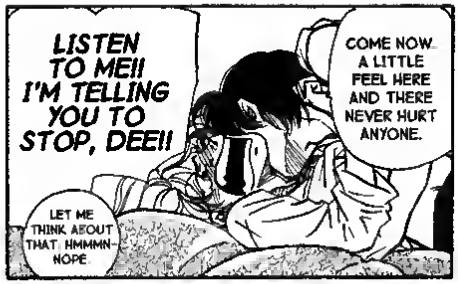
DEE?

And who okayed you, huh?
No one okayed that!! You guys are WAY rude!! And besides, I decided I was staying over first so why don't you two losers scat and find somewhere else to sleep!
puff
I'm gonna sleep over too, if that's cool. I brought extra clothes
flap

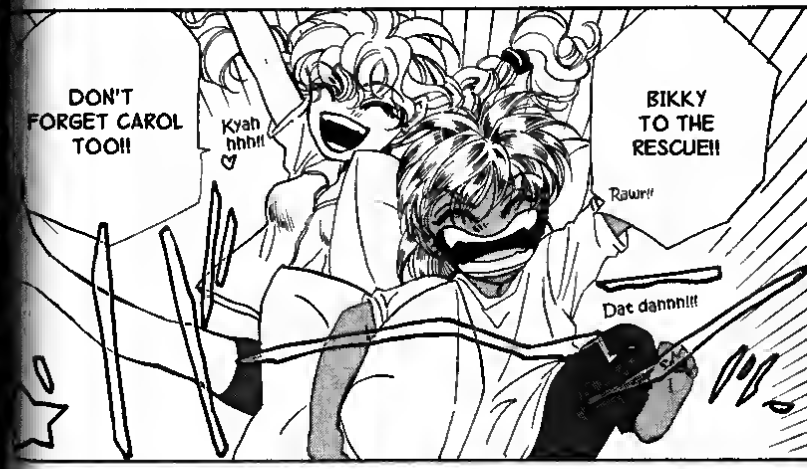

LEO?!


HERE'S A PICTURE FROM BACK THEN. I PRINTED IT OUT FROM AN OLD NEWSPAPER ARTICLE I FOUND.
THAT'S RIGHT. TEN YEARS AGO, HE AND TWO OTHERS WERE HELD UNDER SUSPICION FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN MY PARENTS' MURDER. BUT THEY ALL GOT RELEASED PRETTY QUICKLY AFTER THAT.
YEP, THAT'S LEO, ALL RIGHT. LOOKS LIKE THE PIC WAS SNAPPED DURING HIS PEON DAYS.

ACK!! DUDE!! THAT WAS LOW!!
BIKKY!!


LISTEN TO ME!! I'M TELLING YOU TO STOP, DEE!!
COME NOW. A LITTLE FEEL HERE AND THERE NEVER HURT ANYONE.
LET ME THINK ABOUT THAT. HMMMM- NOPE

SO HELP ME, DEE!! IF YOU DON'T STOP IT RIGHT NOW, I'LL--


DON'T FORGET CAROL TOO!!
Kyah hhh!!
BIKKY TO THE RESCUE!!
Rawr!!
Dat dannn!!!

OU WANT O TURN IN LREADY? 'S BARELY EVEN, YOU LITTLE MONKEY BRAT!!
GOOD ONE!! OKAY, LET'S GO WITH THAT. 'NIGHT, BIKKY.
BECAUSE WE WANT TO SLEEP WITH RYO TONIGHT.
Ki Ki
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE? AND WHY THE HELL DID YOU BRING YOUR PILLOWS IN HERE?

OKAY, OKAY. CATCH YOU LATER, THEN.
OKAY. BUT CALL ME IF YOU NEED SOMETHING I'LL HAVE MY CELL WIT ME AND LOOKIT- IT'S EVEN CHARGE AND ON!

THAT WAS IN THE FILE. ND SAM WAS NE OF THE HREE HELD UNDER USPICION FOR MY ARENTS' URDER.
WELL, REGGIE LUTHER'S MAIDEN NAME IS HORSON, ISN'T IT?
YEAH. HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
NOW, THAT BROTHER OF REGGIE LUTHER'S YOU UNCOV- ERED. IS HIS NAME SAM HORSON?

creak..

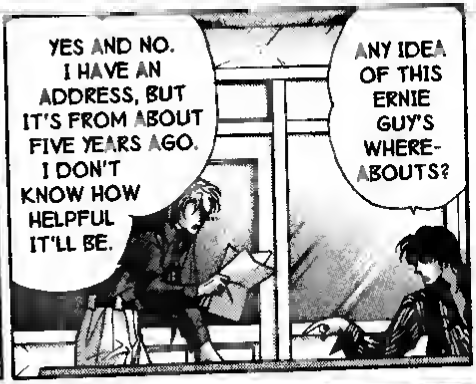
AY. THEN OULD WE LIT UP? L TAKE AM AND OU HIT ERNIE?
WELL, WE WON'T KNOW 'TIL WE CHECK IT OUT.

THE ONE ON THE RIGHT IS SAM AND THE ONE ON THE LEFT IS ERNIE FRY.

ACTUALLY, SOMEONE DOES.

WHOOO. NOW THIS IS THE LIFE. NOT.
I WONDER IF ANYONE EVEN LIVES HERE ANY- MORE.

OOH.


YES AND NO. I HAVE AN ADDRESS, BUT IT'S FROM ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO. I DON'T KNOW HOW HELPFUL IT'LL BE.
ANY IDEA OF THIS ERNIE GUY'S WHERE- ABOUTS?

I KNOW, I KNOW. I WON'T O ANYTHING TUPID. I ROMISE.
stare
OKAY, BUT--

RAIN_

Creeak

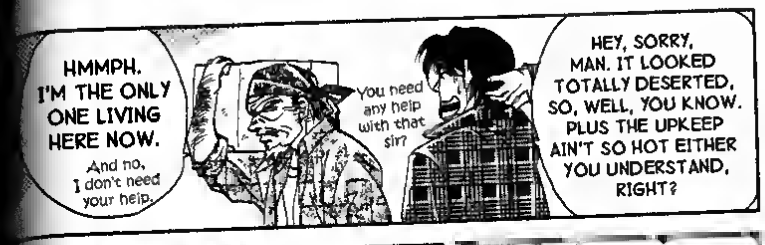
splassh
ERNIE DIED THREE YEARS AGO.

HE WAS LYING IN THE BACK ALLEY OF THIS PLACE WITH A BIG GAPING HOLE IN HIS HEAD.
I'M THE ONE WHO FOUND HIM, AND TRUST ME, HE WAS NEVER GOING TO GET UP.
splassh
splassh

prrrrr!!!
prrrrr!!!

THAT YOU, RYO?!

sit
close

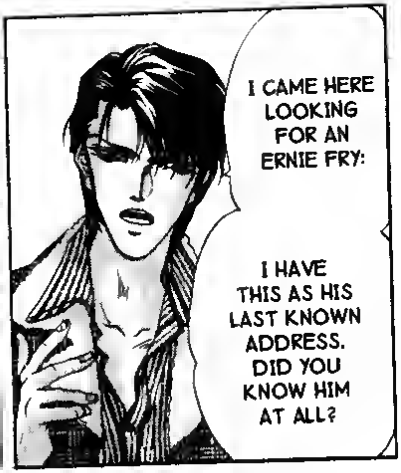

HMMPH. I'M THE ONLY ONE LIVING HERE NOW.
And no, I don't need your help.
You need any help with that sir?
HEY, SORRY, MAN. IT LOOKED TOTALLY DESERTED, SO, WELL, YOU KNOW. PLUS THE UPKEEP AIN'T SO HOT EITHER YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?

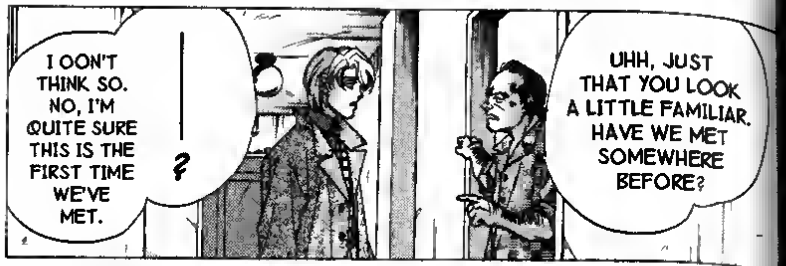
NO ONE ELSE LIVES HERE? YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN?

SORRY, MAN. I ALMOST FORGOT. I'M A COP.
Here's my badge.
HMM? SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT? BY THE WAY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE? PRETTY FRIGGIN' SUSPICIOUS.

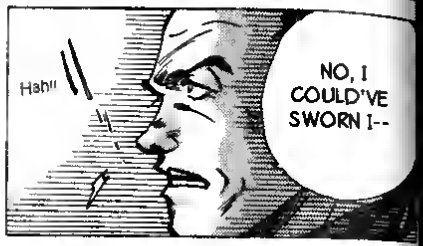
HUH?!
I'M NOT GOING TO BE HERE MUCH LONGER ANYWAY. THEY'RE GONNA TEAR THIS PLACE DOWN SOON. SO I'M JUST PACKING UP TO GET OUT OF HERE.
set
ドン

ERNIE?!

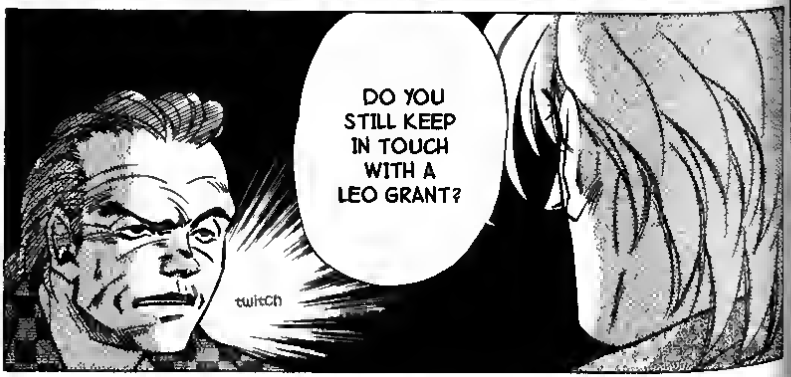

I CAME HERE LOOKING FOR AN ERNIE FRY:
I HAVE THIS AS HIS LAST KNOWN ADDRESS. DID YOU KNOW HIM AT ALL?


I OON'T THINK SO. NO, I'M QUITE SURE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET.
?
UHH, JUST THAT YOU LOOK A LITTLE FAMILIAR. HAVE WE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE?

OH, OF COURSE-- BUT ONE MORE QUESTION.
AS YOU CAN SEE, I JUST MOVED INTO THIS PLACE, YOU KNOW, SO I'O KINOA LIKE SOME SPACE. I WANNA GET THINGS TIOIED UP AND ALL.
ANYHOW, IF YOU OON'T HAVE ANY OTHER QUES-TIONS, OO YOU MINO?


Hah!!
NO, I COULD'VE SWORN I--

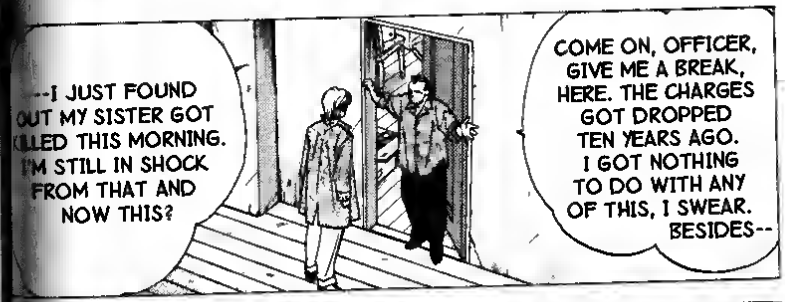
AHHH, NOTHING. JUST FIGURED IT OUT IS ALL. MY MISTAKE. YOU JUST LOOK LIKE AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SIR?


twitch
DO YOU STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH A LEO GRANT?

WELL, I MET WITH SAM AND TALKED TO HIM, BUT--

snicker
THAT'S RIGHT. HOW'D IT GO?

MORE LIKE HOW DIDN'T IT GO. ERNIE DIED THREE YEARS AGO. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

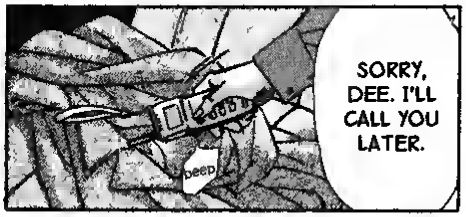

--I JUST FOUND OUT MY SISTER GOT KILLED THIS MORNING. I'M STILL IN SHOCK FROM THAT AND NOW THIS?
COME ON, OFFICER, GIVE ME A BREAK, HERE. THE CHARGES GOT DROPPED TEN YEARS AGO. I GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS, I SWEAR. BESIDES--

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND, SIR?

WHY ARE YOU GUYS LOOKING INTO A CASE THAT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO ANYWAY, HUH?

DAMN IT, RYO!! DON'T FUCKING LIE TO ME NOW!! YOU KNOW THAT SOMETHING'S GOING DOWN!!

DON'T START SWEATING, DEE. I'M SURE HE'S JUST GOING GROCERY SHOPPING OR SOMETHING
WAIT A SECOND, RYO. DON'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL I GET THERE!!
Vrrmmm


SORRY, DEE. I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
beep

WHAT?! RYO? DAMMIT!! RYO?!

GOD DAMN IT. HE TURNED HIS RADIO OFF TOO.
beep
click click

DAMN IT.
CHUCK
click

AND THAT'S THAT.
NOTHING BUT TROUBLE, IF YOU ASK ME.
HEH, NO WAY. THAT GUY AIN'T RIGHT. I CUT MY TIES WITH HIM A LONG TIME AGO.

LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING OUT. HE TOLD ME HE WAS GOING TO STAY HOME AND MOVE IN. ODD.

ISN'T HE?
HMM, PRETTY SUSPICIOUS.

I THOUGHT HE WAS ACTING FUNNY, SO I'M STAKING HIS PLACE OUT RIGHT NOW. BUT-- HMM...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HE JUST CALLED A CAB. I'M GONNA FOLLOW HIM.
HEY, RYO. HOLD ON A MINUTE. YOU DON'T THINK THAT--

WE'VE BEEN SITITNG HERE FOR TEN MINUTES. I WONDER WHO HE'S WAITING FOR.

Vrrmmmhmmm

DISPATCH.
THIS IS CAR 29, DEE LAYTNER.

M GONNA D SOMEONE NAVIGATE. NEED TO MEET UP WITH IT A.S.A.P.
CAR 28. AND IF IT'S ON THE MOVE...

OGER THAT.
GOT IT. JUST GIVE US A SECOND HERE.
vhhp

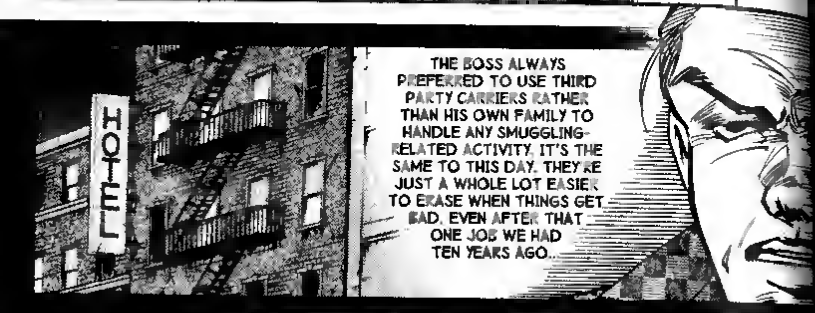
I NEED TO GET THE LOCATION OF ONE OF OUR VEHICLES.
flick
WHAT DO YOU NEED, OFFICER LAYTNER?
flick
NO PROBLEM. WHICH ONE IS IT?

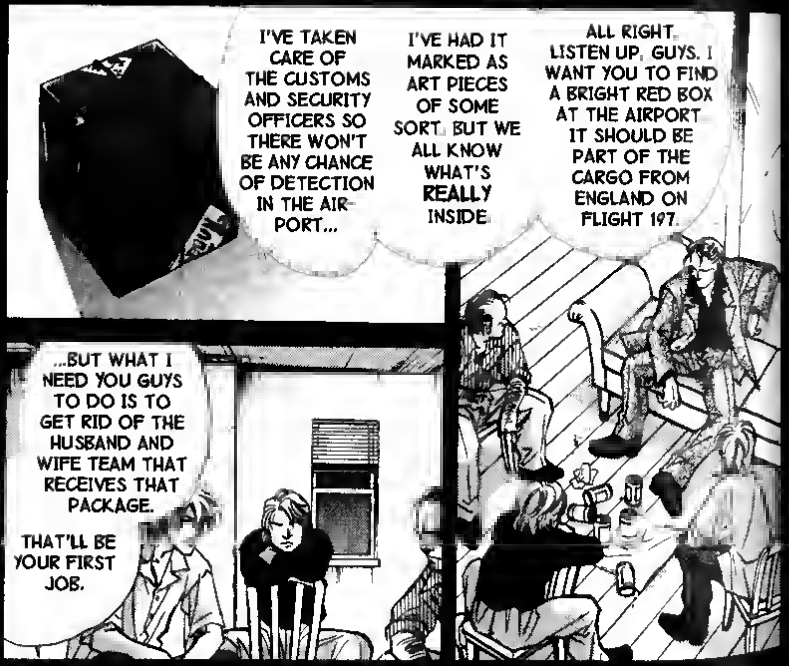
DAMN HIM.

IT'S LEO!!
THAT GUY--
screech
click
SORRY YOU HAD TO WAIT, SAM.

Zaaaahhhh...
slink...
click
LONG TIME, EH? LEO?
flick
WELL, WELL, WELL. LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE DOING PRETTY GOOD FOR YOURSELF, EH?
WORD ON THE STREET IS YOU'RE NEXT IN LINE IF THE BOSS GOES. CONGRATULATIONS.
HEH? YEAH, RIGHT. COULD BE WORSE TOO. BUT NOT FOR YOU. NOT FOR THE BOSS' FAVORITE.
COULD BE BETTER. GOT MY SHARE OF TROUBLES HERE AND THERE.

TEN YEARS AGO.
MY GOD. IT CAN'T BE..


HOTEL
THE BOSS ALWAYS PREFERRED TO USE THIRD PARTY CARRIERS RATHER THAN HIS OWN FAMILY TO HANDLE ANY SMUGGLING-RELATED ACTIVITY. IT'S THE SAME TO THIS DAY. THEY'RE JUST A WHOLE LOT EASIER TO ERASE WHEN THINGS GET BAD, EVEN AFTER THAT ONE JOB WE HAD TEN YEARS AGO...

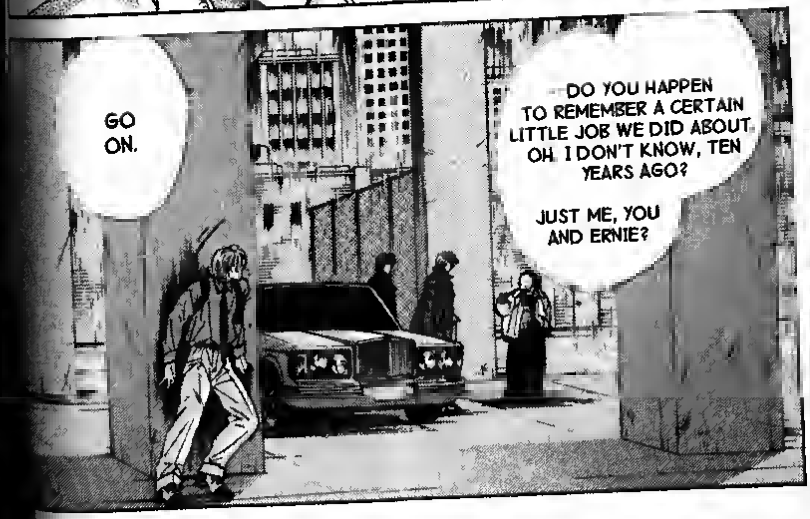

I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THE CUSTOMS AND SECURITY OFFICERS SO THERE WON'T BE ANY CHANCE OF DETECTION IN THE AIR-PORT...
I'VE HAD IT MARKED AS ART PIECES OF SOME SORT. BUT WE ALL KNOW WHAT'S REALLY INSIDE.
ALL RIGHT. LISTEN UP, GUYS. I WANT YOU TO FIND A BRIGHT RED BOX AT THE AIRPORT. IT SHOULD BE PART OF THE CARGO FROM ENGLAND ON FLIGHT 197.
...BUT WHAT I NEED YOU GUYS TO DO IS TO GET RID OF THE HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM THAT RECEIVES THAT PACKAGE.
THAT'LL BE YOUR FIRST JOB.

NOW, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT? I DOUBT IT'S JUST TO CATCH UP ON OLD TIMES.
VERY KIND OF PEOPLE TO BE SAYING THAT.

AND SINCE WHEN IS THAT SOMETHING NEW?
THE COPS PAID ME A LITTLE VISIT TODAY.

WHAT?
WELL, ACTUALLY ...IT IS.

fu
WELL--

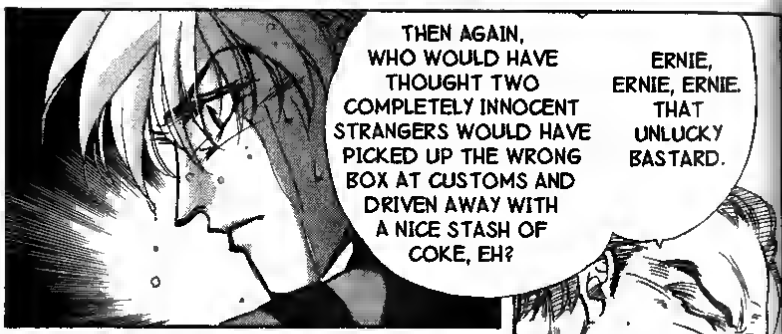

GO ON.
...DO YOU HAPPEN TO REMEMBER A CERTAIN LITTLE JOB WE DID ABOUT, OH, I DON'T KNOW, TEN YEARS AGO?
JUST ME, YOU AND ERNIE?

WE EVEN HEADED BACK RIGHT AWAY JUST LIKE WE WERE TOLD TO DO. BUT--
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
whom
YOU IDIOTS!
WE JUST TOOK OUT WHICHEVER ONE HE TOLD US TO.
WAIT A SECOND, BOSS. JUST HOLD ON. ERNIE'S THE ONE THAT CONFIRMED THE CAR!
YOU DUMB-SHITS GOT ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELVES?! HUH?!
HOW MANY TIMES DID I WARN YOU GUYS NOT TO FUCK THE HELL UP, HUH?! AND WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU GO AND DO?!
WE, UM... WE CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE, BOSS
DAMN. AND WHERE'S ERNIE?

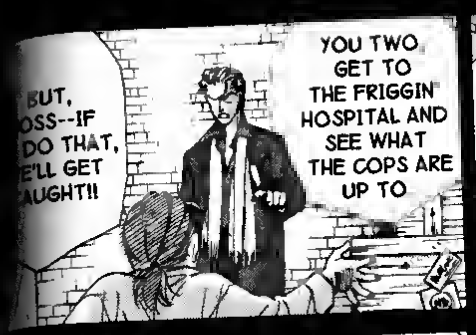
LEAVE THEM THERE. YOU WON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME BEFORE SOMEONE SHOWS UP.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE DRUGS?
NO. I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW THEM AND TAKE 'EM OUT QUIETLY. YOUR CHOICE OF PLACES JUST MAKE SURE NO ONE'S AROUND.
YOU WANT US TO TAKE 'EM OUT AT THE AIRPORT, BOSS?
AND-WE-WENT-AND-DID-JUST-WHAT-THE-BOSS-ASKED-US-TO-DO.
SCREEECCHHH
whap
whap
whap
bamm
bamm

WHEN THE TWO OF US WENT TO THE HOSPITAL THAT DAY...
TO HOSPITAL

I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS, THOUGH. LET'S GO REPORT BACK TO THE BOSS.
IF WE GOT THE WRONG CAR, THEN THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY DRUGS, RIGHT?
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY DO THE COPS HAVE THE GOODS?


THEN AGAIN, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT TWO COMPLETELY INNOCENT STRANGERS WOULD HAVE PICKED UP THE WRONG BOX AT CUSTOMS AND DRIVEN AWAY WITH A NICE STASH OF COKE, EH?
ERNIE, ERNIE, ERNIE. THAT UNLUCKY BASTARD.

THAT WE DID.
OKAY, NOW HERE'S THE THING. YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE AT THE HOSPITAL?
WE SAW THAT STIFF'S SON, RIGHT?


BUT, OSS--IF DO THAT, E'LL GET AUGHT!!
YOU TWO GET TO THE FRIGGIN' HOSPITAL AND SEE WHAT THE COPS ARE UP TO

YOU IDIOTS. THAT'S THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES. WE'VE OFFED COMPLETE OUTSIDERS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?!

UHHH... YES, SIR.
YOU SURE AS HELL BETTER FIND HIM, AND QUICK!! AND WHEN YOU DO, KILL HIM!!

IF YOU CAN'T--
THEN YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT? YOU'VE GOT TO FINISH THE JOB!!
IF THEY'RE DEAD, THAT'S FINE AND DANDY, BUT IF THEY'RE ALIVE, AND THEY SAW YOUR FACES...

--I GUARANTEE SOMEONE'LL BE COMING OVER TO FINISH YOU!!

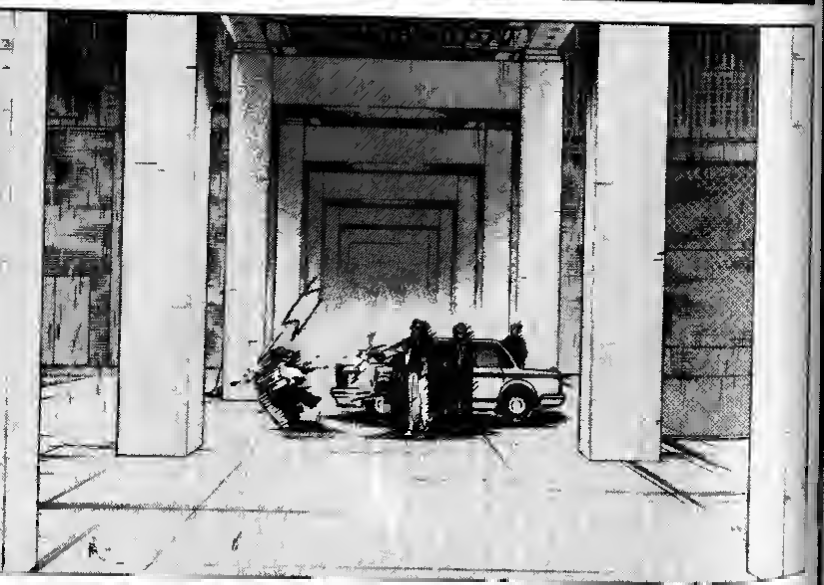
WNAT DO YOU THINK TNAT COP WOULD DO?
NEH NEH NEH, WNAT DO YOU TNINK WOULD NAPPEN IF I DECIDED TO COME CLEAN ABOUT THAT CASE?
twitch
--WELL, I'LL PROBABLY GET A REDUCED SENTENCE FOR MY COOPERATION. BUT YOU?
HMMM, I OON'T KNOW HOW WELL YOU'LL FARE. I DOUBT PRISON FOOD'LL SUIT YOUR PALATE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.
ERNIE RAN ALL HIS LIFE, BUT THREE YEARS AGO, THEY FOUND NIM AND PUT A BULLET IN HIS HEAD. IF I TAKE THE STAND AGAINST YOU--THE RING LEADER OF TNIS WHOLE THING--
SO WNAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT?

DON'T WORRY. NE WAS JUST ASKING ABOUT MY SISTER'S TRAGIC DEMISE IS ALL.
WELL, THAT SAME KID'S GONE AND MADE HIMSELF A COP. HE CAME TO ME ASKING QUESTIONS.
I GOT A GOOD LOOK, AND I'M SURE IT'S HIM.
WHAT THE HELL WAS SHE THINKING, HUH?
SHE GOT HERS A FEW DAYS AGO.
STUPID BITCH THOUGHT SHE COULD COME OUT TO NEW YORK AND GET AWAY CLEAN AFTER IGNORING THE BOSS' ORDER-- NOT TO MENTION SHE TOOK OUT TWO OF HIS GUYS OVER IN MILWAUKEE.
WELL, I FIGURE THAT COP'S PROBABLY HOPING TO AVENGE HIS PARENTS, Y'KNOW? THE TIMING SEEMS A LITTLE TOO PERFECT TO ME.
OH YEAH? WHY'S THAT?
--NOW WNAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I'M STILL MISSING TNE POINT OF YOU CALLING ME OUT NERE. YOU TOLD ME A NICE LITTLE STORY--

IF YOU'D JUST KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT, THIS WOULDN'T BE HAPPENING. I WOULD HAVE LET YOU GO TO DO WHATEVER--
THAT I DO. BUT UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, YOU WENT A LITTLE TOO FAR.

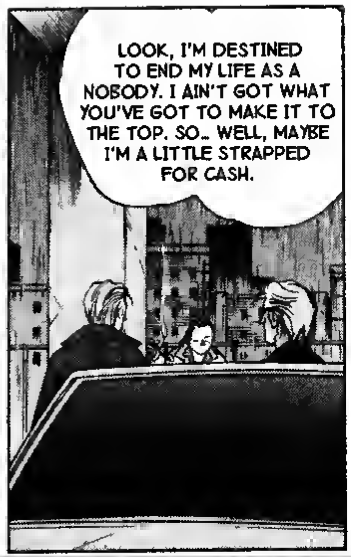
--BUT YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF TO BE JUST A BIT MORE ANNOYING THAN I NEED YOU TO BE.

NO!!



LET'S START WITH A NICE AND EASY HUNDRED GRAND. SHOULD BE POCKET CHANGE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU.
I SEE. AND HOW MUCH MIGHT YOU NEED?

HMM, THAT'S A LITTLE STEEP. HOW ABOUT A DISCOUNT?


LOOK, I'M DESTINED TO END MY LIFE AS A NOBODY. I AIN'T GOT WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE IT TO THE TOP. SO.. WELL, MAYBE I'M A LITTLE STRAPPED FOR CASH.

WHAT?! HEY, HOLD ON, LEO! BUDDY!!! YOU KNOW I WAS JUST KIDDING, RIGHT?

CHICK

TRUST ME. PUT YOUR GUN AWAY.
BUT--!!
STAY BACK.
Step
DAMN IT. HE'S DEAD.
glance
I MEAN IT. NONE OF YOU MOVE!!
I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?
AHHH, I SEE. YOU MUST BE THE ONE SAM WAS TALKING ABOUT. THE BOY FROM TEN YEARS AGO.
YOU'VE GROWN QUITE A BIT, HAVEN'T YOU? I ALMOST DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.

FREEZE!!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!

--THE BOSS NEEDS ME.
SO GO AHEAD AND DO IT. IF YOU SHOOT ME NOW, I'LL BE DEAD. GONE.
YOU CAME HERE TO KILL ME, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
SO IT WOULD PROBABLY BE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST TO SHOOT ME NOW.
I'LL LIVE!
BUT IF YOU ARREST ME...

DIDN'T I TELL THE TWO OF YOU TO STAY BACK?
THE HELL WE ARE!!
PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR HEAD AND TURN AROUND. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER.
WHY DON'T YOU TWO GO WAIT IN THE CAR?
WHAT?!
I DOUBT YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SEND ME ANYWHERE BUT HOME, KID.
EVEN IF SAM WERE ALIVE, IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE. MY BOSS KNOWS A LOT OF PEOPLE. HE'S GOT A LOT OF SAY IN A LOT OF THINGS--AND A LOT OF MONEY TO BACK HIMSELF UP. BESIDES--
CLICK

AA
AAH
HH
HH
HHH
HH
!!

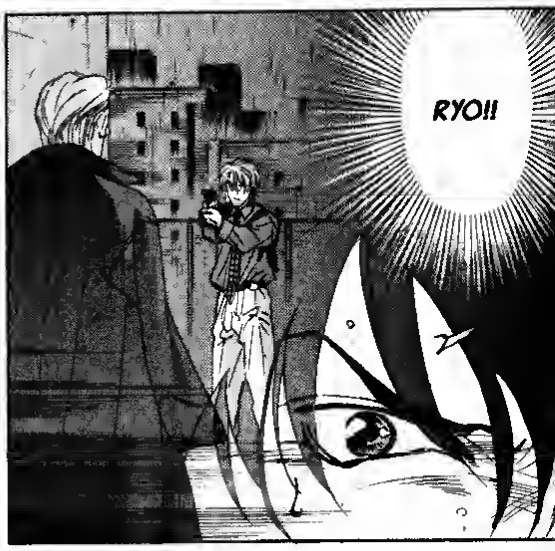
YOU HEARD WHAT SAM SAID, RIGHT? ABOUT WHAT WE DID?
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD REASON
WELL? WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T BE SHY. JUST SHOOT ME, WIMP

HE'S RIGHT. YOU KNOW

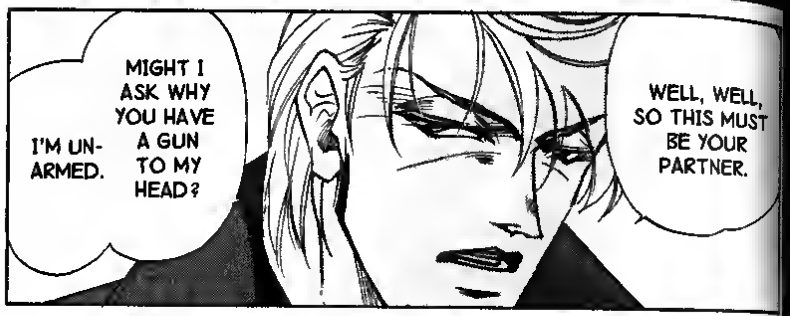
IT WAS US. WE KILLED YOUR PARENTS!

Damn!
screeecchhh

THAT IDIOT!!
dash


RYO!!

DEE...


I'M UN-ARMED.
MIGHT I ASK WHY YOU HAVE A GUN TO MY HEAD?
WELL, WELL, SO THIS MUST BE YOUR PARTNER.

SO YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE THE MURDER RAP FOR YOUR PARTNER?
MY, MY.
DEE...

ACTUALLY, I'M BI...AND A FIRM BELIEVER IN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. BUT THAT ISN'T THE POINT, IS IT?
THAT'S JUST BEAUTIFUL.
I HAD NO IDEA THERE WERE ANY GAYS ON THE POLICE FORCE.

HMMM. PROBABLY BECAUSE I PLAN ON BLOWING A BIG FUCKING HOLE IN YOUR HEAD BEFORE RYO GETS TO YOU FIRST.

RYO!!
twitch
click

THEY..
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT ME? GEEZ, YOU DON'T LISTEN TO A DAMN THING I--
RYO... YOU ALL RIGHT?
MY DAD. MY MOM. THEY KILLED THEM.
THEY.. THEY DID IT.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT?
HOLY SHIT. HEY, RYO, I--
IT WAS.. IT WAS A MISTAKE..
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID. I HEARD THEM.
THEY SAID..
THEY SAID THEY GOT THE WRONG PEOPLE.
SHUT UP! ND GET THE ELL OUT OF ERE BEFORE I PULL THIS TRIGGER!!
Gee, thanks. Forgive me for not being flattered.
YOU'RE LOOKING AT MURDER AND YOU'VE STILL GOT THE BALLS TO MAKE A JOKE, HUH? NOT BAD. I LIKE THAT.
I HOPE WE MEET AGAIN, MR. MACLEAN.
IF YOU INSIST. SEEMS LIKE YOUR PARTNER'S LOST HIS WILL TO KILL ME ANYHOW. SHOULDN'T HAVE LISTENED TO YOU, EH?
VrrrrMMmmmmm
ZaaahhHHhhhh

RYO...
THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN. YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO COULD JUST SHOOT SOMEONE IN COLD BLOOD.
RYO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.
--DAMN IT!!
HE TOLD ME TO BLAST HIM! LEO ACTUALLY TOLD ME IT WAS OKAY TO SHOOT HIM! BUT I COULDN'T! I COULDN'T DO IT! WHY?! WHY?!!
HE TOLD ME TO SHOOT!!
WHY COULDN'T I?!

DEE, I...
I CAN'T HEAR YOU AGAIN, BUD. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT?
RYO? NNNNN...
I WANT TO STAY TONIGHT. I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU.
GIVE BIKKY A CALL THEN, AND-- HEY!
HMM? O-OKAY UH, WHY DON'T YOU...

WHY DON'T YOU GO WARM UP? TAKE A SHOWER OR SOMETHING. I'LL LEND YOU SOME OF MY STUFF TO WEAR.
click
HOO-WAH! IT'S CHILLY.
creak
close
AND IF YOU'RE OING TO STAY THE GHT, GIVE BIKKY A EADS UP, OKAY? ON'T WANT HIM TO WORRY, Y'KNOW.
HOLD ON. LET ME GET YOU A TOWEL OR SOMETHING. I THINK THERE WAS ONE IN THIS DRAWER.
Yup, there it be
HERE YOU GO. I'LL BRING YOU YOUR CHANGE OF CLOTHES LA--
set

Clench
I DON'T MIND YOU KNOW.
IF YOU DO IT TO ME NOW, I WOULDN'T... WELL, I WOULDN'T CARE AT ALL.

HEH...

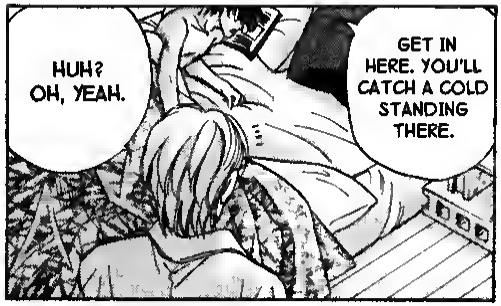
NNNN NNNN...
H-HOLD UP A MINUTE.

GO AHEAD, DEE. DO IT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD.
HUH?

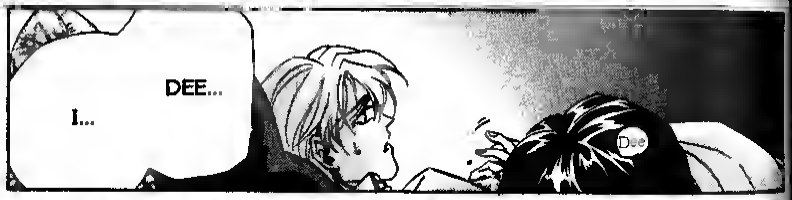
W-WAIT! HOLD ON, RYO!!

ASSHOLE
DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE TO NEVER EVER PATRONIZE ME?!
DEE?
shaaaahhh
NOW GO GET IN THAT FUCKING SHOWER AND COOL YOUR HEAD DOWN!! STOP ACTING LIKE A WHORE WHEN YOU'RE NOT ONE
ACK.
Flip

slap


HUH? OH, YEAH.
GET IN HERE. YOU'LL CATCH A COLD STANDING THERE.

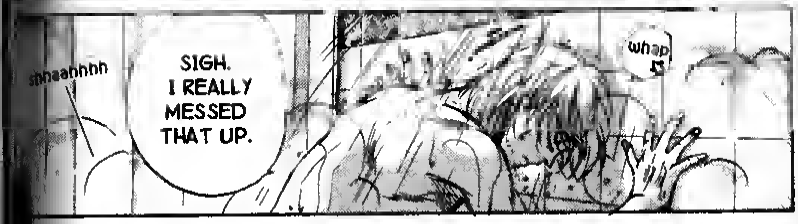
rustle
DEE, I, UH--


DEE... I...
Dee

ギロ"
glare
URM THAT LOOKS LIKE A YES TO ME.

ARE YOU... ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
glance

DIDN'T I TELL YOU BEFORE TO NEVER EVER PATRONIZE ME?!

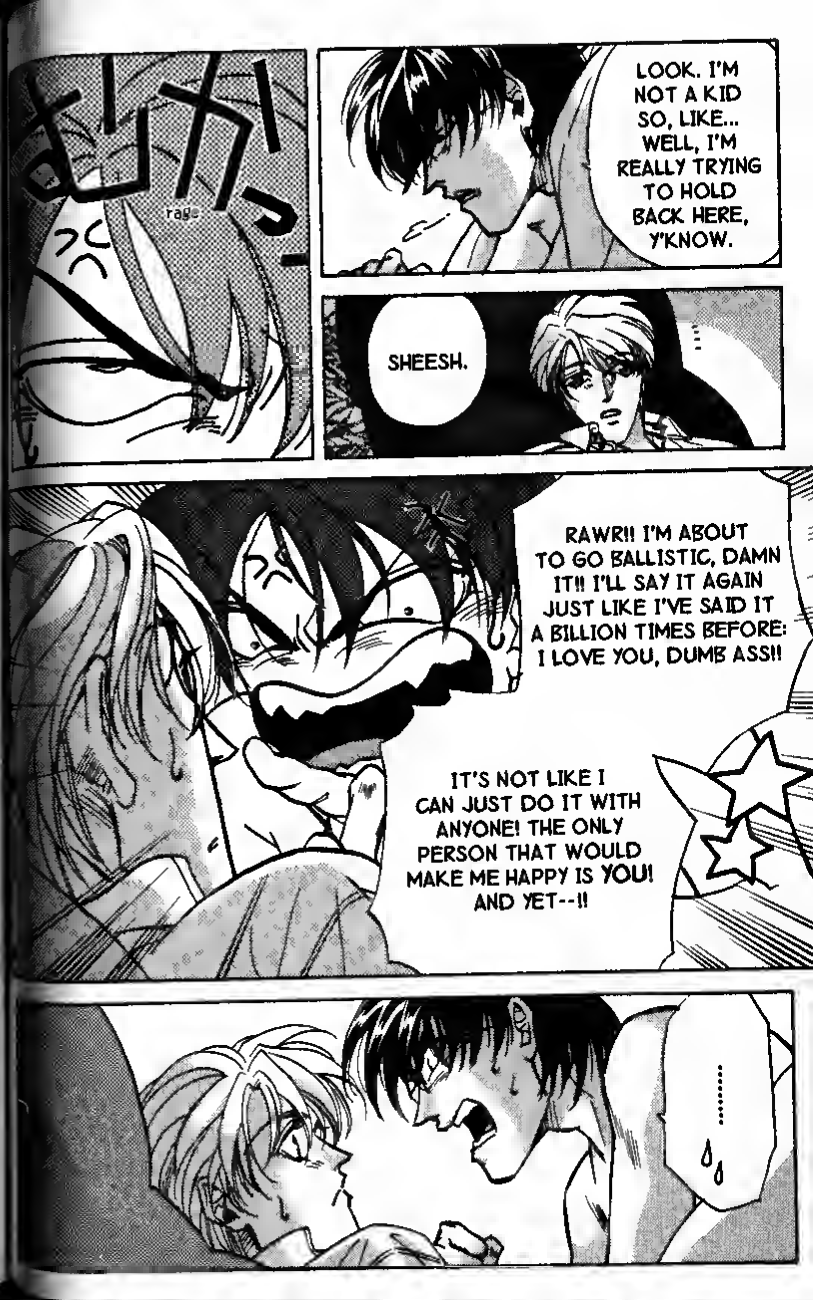

shhaahhhh
SIGH. I REALLY MESSED THAT UP.
whap

close

THAT'S NICE.
I BOR-ROWED YOUR PHONE

Creak

I'M NOT THAT STRONG YOU KNOW.
sniff
YOU CAN'T JUST TELL ME TO "GO AHEAD, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT."
flop
DAMN IT.
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY?
.....
AND YET?
snicker
YOU'RE NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL. YOU'RE MUCH MORE NOBLE.
I WAS ALMOST THAT DICKWAD, DAMN IT. AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
ONLY A DICKWAD LOWER THAN SLIME WOULD USE AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS TO SNEAK INTO YOUR PANTS.
YEAH, PLENTY SURE.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?


rags
LOOK. I'M NOT A KID SO, LIKE... WELL, I'M REALLY TRYING TO HOLD BACK HERE, Y'KNOW.
SHEESH.
RAWR!! I'M ABOUT TO GO BALLISTIC, DAMN IT!! I'LL SAY IT AGAIN JUST LIKE I'VE SAID IT A BILLION TIMES BEFORE: I LOVE YOU, DUMB ASS!!
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN JUST DO IT WITH ANYONE! THE ONLY PERSON THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY IS YOU! AND YET--!!
.....

Note: Changing for bed.

WHY YOU LITTLE SIMIAN SCUM-BAG!!
HEH, NO WAY. PHFSHHT. I EVEN BROUGHT MY OWN PILLOW.
I Get out!
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE, BIKKY!! DON'T YOU KNOW WE WERE ABOUT TO HAVE SOME PRIVATE ADULT TIME?

NOW, NOW.
NEWS FLASH, DUDE!! YOU RANK LOWER THAN ANY OF "THOSE" GUYS IN MY BOOK!!
DROP
AWW, COME ON, DEE. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ONE OF "THOSE" GUYS, DO YOU?

WHAT? URM, WAIT. WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE FOR REAL? AND WHAT'S WITH THAT "BRING IT ON BABY," ANYWAY?
I'm ready for real.
LET'S SAY ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU FOUND YOURSELF ENLIGHTENED ABOUT "US" AND DECIDED THAT YOU REALLY DID WANT TO DO IT AFTER ALL. THEN I'D BE ALL FOR IT, OF COURSE. BRING IT ON, BABY.

AM NOT!! NO WAY!! I JUST, URM--
WHAT? YOU CAN'T TAKE IT BACK NOW. I THOUGHT YOU WERE LIKE, IN THE MOOD. SO GRIN AND BEAR IT.
NO, NO, NO! NO WAY, DEE!! I'M JUST NOT READY YET!!

NEXT TIME? NO WAY, YOU THINK ABOUT IT NOW--
KISS
GOODNIGHT, DEE.
I PROMISE TO THINK ABOUT IT.
WE CAN DISCUSS HOW "ENLIGHTENED" I AM ABOUT US NEXT TIME.

You can't treat me like Bikky, damn it!!
Good night, Bikky
Nigh-n!!
KISS
HEY... ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME ANYMORE? HEY!!
YOU SERIOUSLY THINK A TEENY, TINY KISS LIKE THAT IS GOING TO BE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY?! HUH?! DO YA?!

↑ Note: But he is.

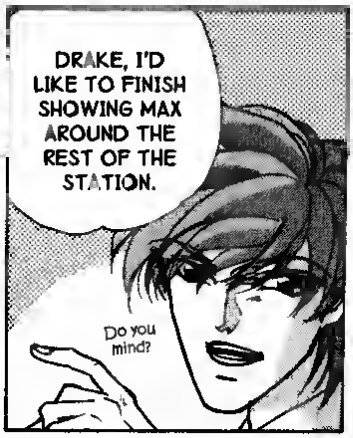
NEW YORK CITY. BRONX STATION.
HMM?
JEMMY J?
tap
OH!!
DIDJA FORGET ME ALREADY, JJ?!
YEP.
MAX?! MAX FORK?!
smack

FAKE

crash
DAAH HHH!!

THE NAME'S MAX FORK.
BESIDES, I HAVE TO INTRODUCE YOU TWO. MISTER SEXY, THIS IS MY FRIEND--

WHOA. THERE'S STILL A TON OF THINGS I WANT TO DO, SO I'M GOING TO PASS ON THAT INVITE.
WHAT'S WITH THE CRASH, HUH? MAY I ASSUME YOU'VE GOTTEN EVERYTHING OUT OF LIFE YOU EVER WANTED AND KILL YOU?


DRAKE, I'D LIKE TO FINISH SHOWING MAX AROUND THE REST OF THE STATION.
Do you mind?

RANDY MACLEAN. NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
THAT ONE'S DRAKE PARKER AND THAT ONE--
DEE LAYTNER. NICE TO MEET YOU.

...ONE OF JJ'S FRIENDS FROM THEIR POLICE ACADEMY DAYS, HUH?
DID YOU KNOW HIM? YOU WENT TO THE SAME ONE, RIGHT?

I HEARD THOSE TWO WENT OFF TO HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER. CATCH UP WITH EACH OTHER AND ALL.
IS MR. DRAKE FEELING A WITTLE LONELY?
MAX? NOPE, NEVER HEARD OF HIM.
HE'S BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE BRONX STATION AS OF TODAY.

WHAT?!

THAT WON'T BE HALF AS FUNNY WHEN I STAB YOU IN THE EYE.
arrmmphm
HMM, THAT'S A BIG NO. IF ANYONE WOULD BE LONELY, I'D EXPECT IT TO BE YOU.

DEE!! MR. PERFECT!!!
I MEAN, COME ON. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW AWESOME IT FEELS NOT TO HEAR HIS MATING CALL ECHO THROUGH THE HALLS OVER AND OVER AGAIN? "DEE, THE GOD!" IT'S ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN CRAZY--

HERE YOU GO.
Thanks

I KNOW, I KNOW. I LOST BIG TIME. I'LL TREAT YA.
LOSER BUYS COFFEE, RIGHT? HEH, HEH.
SWEET. NICE. I SEE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SLACKING OFF ON YOUR MARKSMANSHIP SINCE WE LAST MET.
vmm

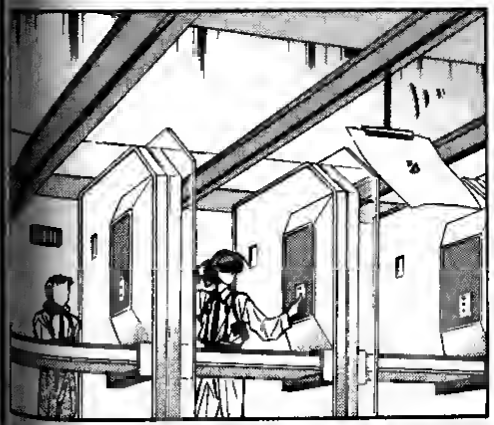
SO, WHERE WERE YOU ASSIGNED BEFORE HEADING OUT EAST? IS LIZA WITH YOU? LAST I HEARD, YOU TWO WERE GONNA GET MARRIED, RIGHT?

THERE WEREN'T ANY GOOD COPS THERE, EITHER.

THAT'S PLENTY. IT'S NOT A PLACE ANYONE SHOULD STAY FOR TOO LONG.
ONLY HALF A YEAR IN L.A.? THAT'S KIND OF SHORT, ISN'T IT?

AND BEFORE THAT, I WAS IN SAN FRANCISCO.
WELL. I SPENT ABOUT HALF A YEAR IN L.A.,

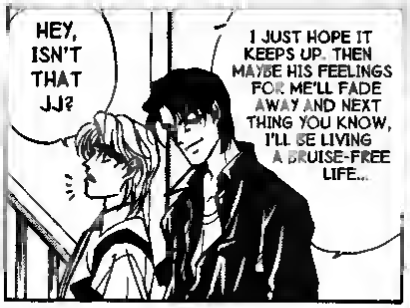
JUST WAIT FOR ME IN THE SECOND DATA ROOM.
SHEESH, DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE BACK SOON, I PROMISE.
You sure?
NO PROBLEMO. JUST REMEMBER, WE'VE GOT A TON OF REPORTS TO GET THROUGH TODAY, SO DON'T TAKE TOO LONG.



rilip

bamm
bamm
bamm
bamm
7
8
8
7

HMM, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT THEN AGAIN, HE'S PRETTY MUCH "HAPPY HAPPY, JOY JOY" ALL YEAR 'ROUND, ANYHOW.


HEY, ISN'T THAT JJ?
I JUST HOPE IT KEEPS UP. THEN MAYBE HIS FEELINGS FOR ME'LL FADE AWAY AND NEXT THING YOU KNOW, I'LL BE LIVING A BRUISE-FREE LIFE...

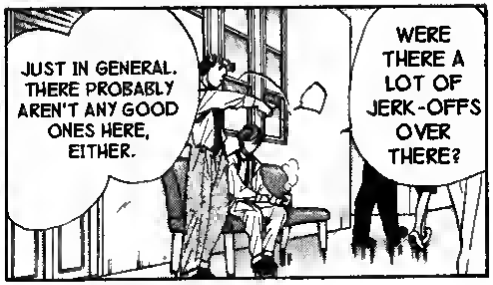
!?
vanish

JJ SURE LOOKED HAPPY TODAY, DON'T YOU THINK?
HUH?
YOU KNOW, WHEN HE WAS WITH MAX AGAIN?

WAHHH!! DON'T DO THIS TO ME! I DON'T WANT TO BE IN FRONT! COME ON! DON'T YOU LOVE ME EVEN A LITTLE BIT?!
NO WAY. BESIDES, IT'S JUST PHYSICAL DAMAGE, ISN'T IT? YOU TAKE THINGS LIKE THAT BETTER THAN I DO. YOU'RE WAY MORE BUTCH THAN ME.
NOPE, NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT.
Straight up
tug tug

SHUT UP AND BE MY HUMAN SHIELD, OKAY?
AND JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
sheesh!

IT'S NOTHING, JUST... LET'S JUST LEAVE THIS CONVERSATION AS IS. HUMAN BEINGS ARE ALL TOO FRIGGIN' SELFISH, OKAY? EVEN OFFICERS SWORN TO PROTECT AND TO SERVE.

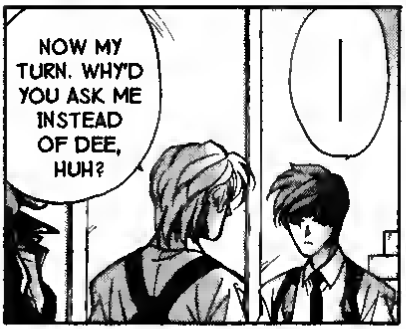

JUST IN GENERAL. THERE PROBABLY AREN'T ANY GOOD ONES HERE, EITHER.
WERE THERE A LOT OF JERK-OFFS OVER THERE?

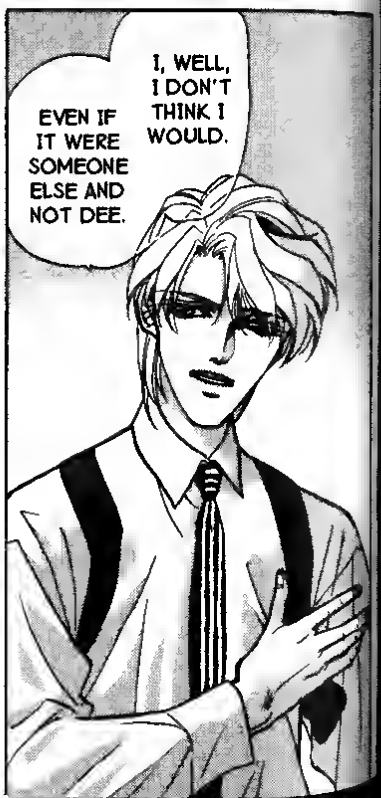
MAX? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

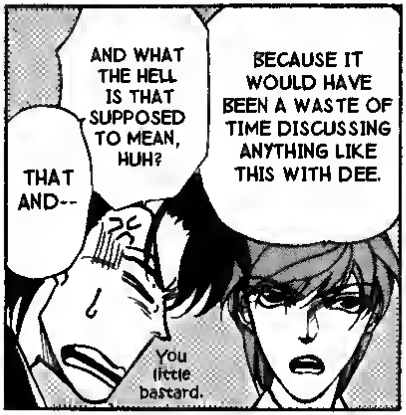
BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WE DON'T TRUST ANYONE. GOD HELP US, WE'D EVEN SHOOT OUR PARTNERS OR ANOTHER OFFICER TO SAVE OUR OWN SORRY ASSES.

MAX...

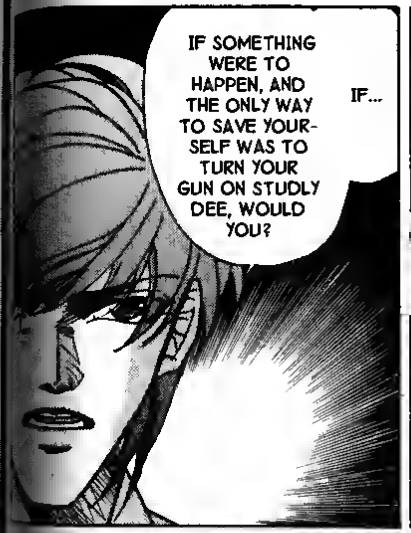
SO IF YOU LOOK AT IT THAT WAY...THERE AREN'T ANY GOOD COPS LEFT, ARE THERE?


NOW MY TURN. WHY'D YOU ASK ME INSTEAD OF DEE, HUH?

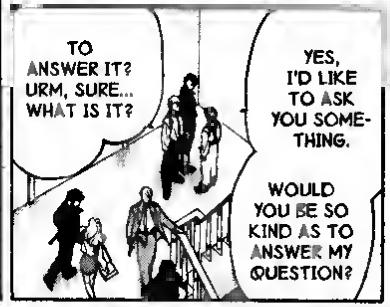

I, WELL, I DON'T THINK I WOULD.
EVEN IF IT WERE SOMEONE ELSE AND NOT DEE.

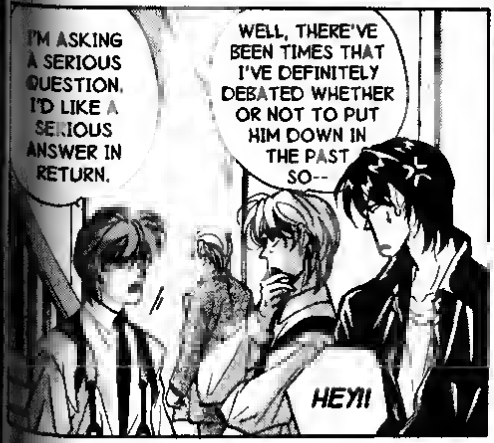

AND WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, HUH?
BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A WASTE OF TIME DISCUSSING ANYTHING LIKE THIS WITH DEE.
THAT AND--
You little bastard.

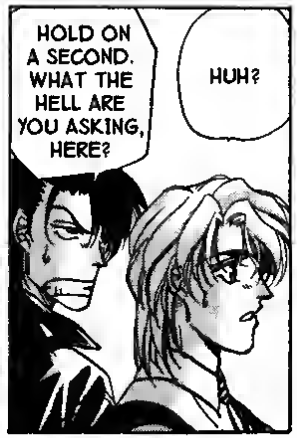
RYO.
ARE YOU QUITE DONE?
So cry already
sob
KEEP IT UP AND I SWEAR I'M GONNA CRY, DAMMIT!! YOU'RE SOOO COLD, SOOO COLD!

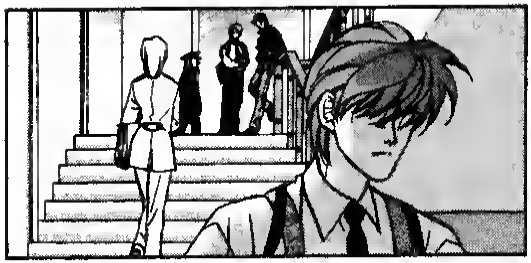

IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN, AND THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOURSELF WAS TO TURN YOUR GUN ON STUDLY DEE, WOULD YOU?
IF...

ME?
HUH?


TO ANSWER IT? URM, SURE... WHAT IS IT?
YES, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO ANSWER MY QUESTION?


I'M ASKING A SERIOUS QUESTION. I'D LIKE A SERIOUS ANSWER IN RETURN.
WELL, THERE'VE BEEN TIMES THAT I'VE DEFINITELY DEBATED WHETHER OR NOT TO PUT HIM DOWN IN THE PAST SO--
HEY!!


HOLD ON A SECOND. WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ASKING, HERE?
HUH?



I'LL BE OFF, THEN

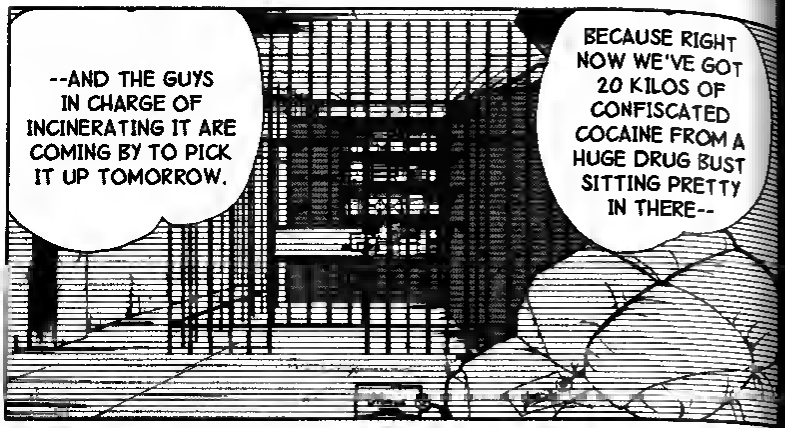
YEAH.
WEIRD TO SEE HIM SO DEAD SERIOUS, EH?

YOU CAN USE EITHER OF 'EM TO ACCESS THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE ROOM HERE.
Clink
WHAT'S WITH THE KEY AND KEY CARD?
I GOT A FRIEND HERE. HE ASKED ME TO TAKE CARE OF THEM FOR HIM... MAKE SURE THEY STAY OUTTA THE WRONG HANDS.
BUT THIS IS THE BRONX STATION...
WHY DO YOU HAVE THESE--?

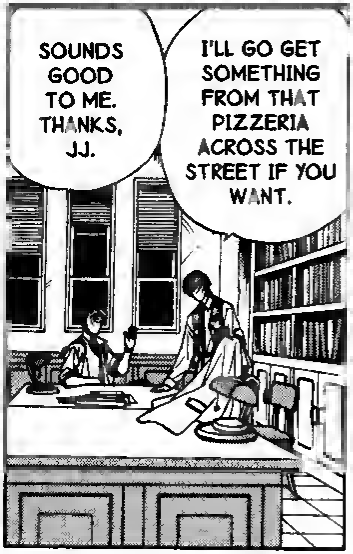
WHEN I BECOME A COP, I NEVER WANT TO HAVE TO HURT ANYONE.
THE MAX I USED TO KNOW WAS A LOT LIKE YOU, RYO.
THE WAY HE THOUGHT THINGS OUT... HIS BELIEFS, HIS MANNERISMS...
I KNOW IT'S PROBABLY JUST WISHFUL THINKING, BUT JUST THE IDEA OF HAVING TO RAISE MY GUN AGAINST ANYONE FOR ANY REASON...
I HATE IT, YOU KNOW? AND I PLAN ON NOT HAVING TO DRAW MY WEAPON ON ANYONE FOR A LONG TIME, IF NOT FOREVER...
I THINK IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE COP WHO TRULY BELIEVES IN THAT. DON'T YOU?

I DON'T KNOW.

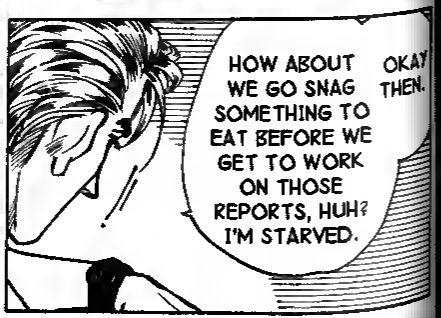
AND HE'S NOT LIKE THAT ANYMORE?

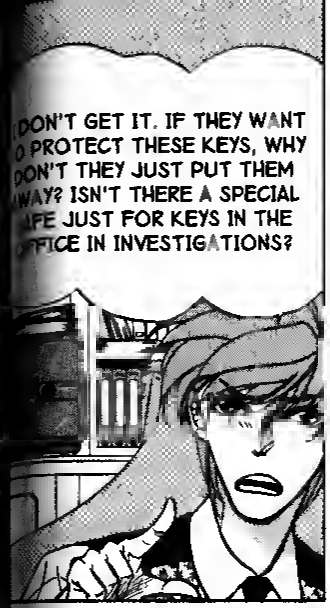

--AND THE GUYS IN CHARGE OF INCINERATING IT ARE COMING BY TO PICK IT UP TOMORROW.
BECAUSE RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT 20 KILOS OF CONFISCATED COCAINE FROM A HUGE DRUG BUST SITTING PRETTY IN THERE--

AWW, COME ON, JUST LET IT GO THIS TIME, WOULO YOU? I'M KINOA TIRED OF HIM MYSELF, SO IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN. I PROMISE.
sorry
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR FRIEND WENT ON VACATION AT A TIME LIKE THIS. HOW IRRESPONSIBLE.


SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. THANKS, JJ.
I'LL GO GET SOMETHING FROM THAT PIZZERIA ACROSS THE STREET IF YOU WANT.

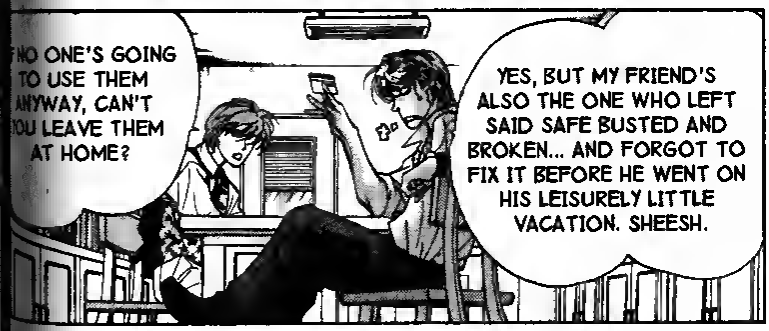
THANKS, I OWE YOU, MAN.
SIGH. ALL RIGHT, BUT JUST THIS ONCE, OKAY?


HOW ABOUT WE GO SNAG SOMETHING TO EAT BEFORE WE GET TO WORK ON THOSE REPORTS, HUH? I'M STARVED.
OKAY THEN.


DON'T GET IT. IF THEY WANT O PROTECT THESE KEYS, WHY DON'T THEY JUST PUT THEM WAY? ISN'T THERE A SPECIAL AFE JUST FOR KEYS IN THE FFICE IN INVESTIGATIONS?

AND I'LL HOLD ONTO THE KEY CARD.
YOU HOLD ONTO THE KEYS.

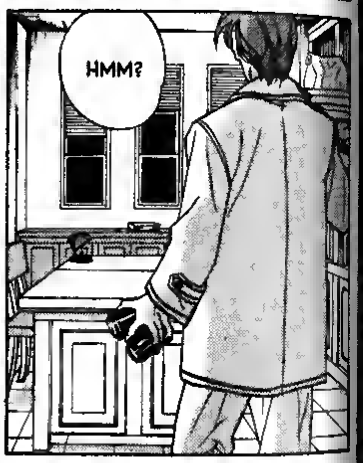
YOU NEED BOTH OF THESE PUPPIES TO OPEN UP THE GATE TO THE STORAGE ROOM, SO DON'T LOSE THAT THING, OKAY?


NO ONE'S GOING TO USE THEM ANYWAY, CAN'T YOU LEAVE THEM AT HOME?
YES, BUT MY FRIEND'S ALSO THE ONE WHO LEFT SAID SAFE BUSTED AND BROKEN... AND FORGOT TO FIX IT BEFORE HE WENT ON HIS LEISURELY LITTLE VACATION. SHEESH.

WHY'S THAT?
WOULD LOVE TO. BUT I'VE GOT TO OPEN UP THE STORAGE ROOM TOMORROW.

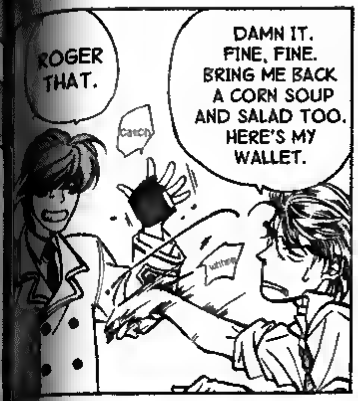
–30 MINUTES LATER–
THEY WERE OUT OF CORN SOUP. HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, DRAKE.
I'M BACK!!

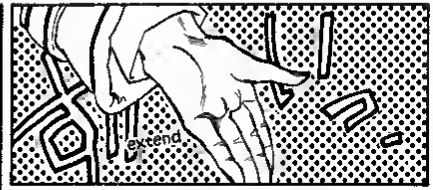
MAYBE HE WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM.


HMM?

Is the cocaine safe, JJ?

A NOTE?


ROGER THAT.
DAMN IT. FINE, FINE. BRING ME BACK A CORN SOUP AND SALAD TOO. HERE'S MY WALLET.


extend

HOPE. IT'S YOUR TREAT, ISH'T IT? SO FORK OVER SOME DEAD PRESIDENTS, IF YOU WOULD.
HMM, WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO SHAKE YER HAND OR SOMETHING?

OD. I MUST BE AGINING THINGS.

HMM ?

click
click
click

bamn
HE'S JUST HURT..
WHEW. HE'S ALIVE.
DRAKE!!
THE-STORAGE-GATE IS CLOSED. OH, DUHHH; I'VE GOT THE OTHER KEY AFTER ALL-!

THE COCAINE! THE COKE IN THE BASEMENT?!
SAFEKEEPING BOX
B1

WELL, THE MARGIN ON SAID ACTIVITIES...
IS ACTUALLY QUITE GOOD, I FIND.
tap
tap
YOU'VE HEARD OF THOSE CROOKED COPS THAT FUNNEL CONFISCATED COKE BACK ONTO THE MARKET THROUGH THE MOB?
grin
QUITE GOOD.
GA AHH HH!!
wham
MAX, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? THE MAX I KNEW WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE ANYTHING LIKE—
CRAP.
I JUST WALKED INTO A TRAP.
Hunh?!
clink
FREEZE. DON'T MOVE.
clink
MAX?! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
HAND OVER THE KEY, JJ.

BILL WASN'T RIGHT IN THE HEAD BEFORE, BUT NOW HE'S EVEN WORSE. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY REASONING WITH HIM
AND LIZA'S IN A BAD WAY TOO. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD FOR EITHER OF THEM.

"JUST TRUST ME." THAT'S WHAT THAT BASTARD TOLD ME. AND YET...

SHUT THE HELL UP!!
I'LL SWITCH PLACES WITH HER AND BE YOUR HOSTAGE INSTEAD, IF YOU WANT. JUST LET HER GO! WELL? WHAT DO YOU SAY, BILL?
BILL, I'M ASKING YOU TO RELEASE THE HOSTAGE.

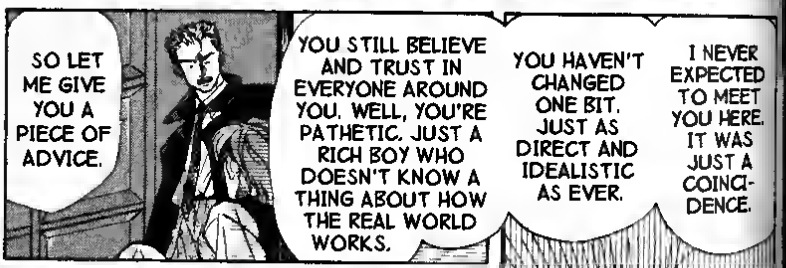
I GUESS I'VE CHANGED, THEN, HAVEN'T I? AND DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY? REMEMBER WHEN YOU ASKED ME ABOUT LIZA EARLIER? GUESS WHAT, CLUELESS? SHE'S DEAD!

WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A HOSTAGE SITUATION. 'S HOLED UP IN YOUR ARTMENT RIGHT HOW. E MUST HAVE GOTTEN OUR ADDRESS FROM N INFORMANT R SOME-THING.
WHAT'S GOING ON, NED?

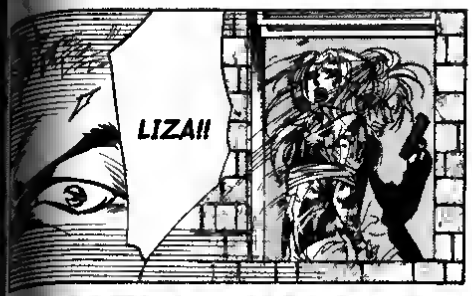
IT ALL HAPPENED 3 MONTHS AGO. MY PARTNER OVER IN L.A., NED, AND I WERE WORKING ON BRINGING DOWN THIS MURDERER BY THE NAME OF BILL. BUT THEN, ONE DAY...

IN THOSE FEW MOMENTS, I WAS BETRAYED BY THE ONE PERSON I WAS SUPPOSED TO TRUST.
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

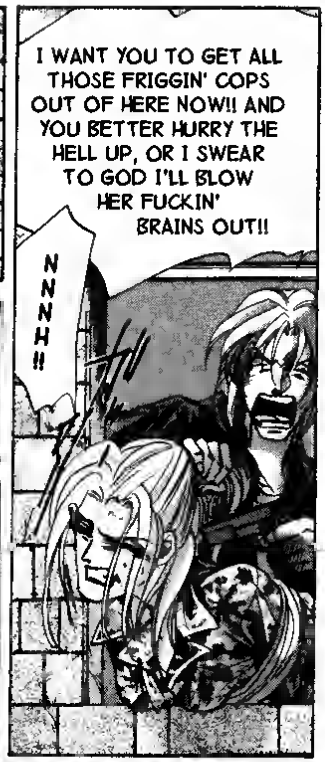
YOU TRUSTED ME UP UNTIL NOW, DIDN'T YOU? WELL? HOW DOES IT FEEL, HUH?!
TO BE BETRAYED BY A FRIEND? IT DOESN'T FEEL SO GOOD, DOES IT?
WHAT THE HELL ELSE WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO BUT CHANGE?


SO LET ME GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE.
YOU STILL BELIEVE AND TRUST IN EVERYONE AROUND YOU. WELL, YOU'RE PATHETIC. JUST A RICH BOY WHO DOESN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HOW THE REAL WORLD WORKS.
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT. JUST AS DIRECT AND IDEALISTIC AS EVER.
I NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET YOU HERE. IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE.

DON'T EVER TRUST ANYONE!!


LIZA!!

NED!!
WAIT, NED!! DON'T SHOOT!!


I WANT YOU TO GET ALL THOSE FRIGGIN' COPS OUT OF HERE NOW!! AND YOU BETTER HURRY THE HELL UP, OR I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL BLOW HER FUCKIN' BRAINS OUT!!
NNNH!!

JJ!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--
tap
tap
tap
JJ!!

THE ONLY THING YOU'RE DOING IS MAKING CHEAP EXCUSES!! BOO HOO, "MY PARTNER BETRAYED ME!" BOO HOO, "DON'T TRUST ANYONE!" YOU'RE A GODDAMNED LIAR IF YOU SAY YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN ANYTHING ANYMORE!!
WH--
WHAT THE HELL?!
glare
whap
OR IS IT THAT YOU JUST WANT SOMEONE TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOU?! IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, MAX?!
YOU LOST YOUR TRUST IN THE WORLD WHEN YOU LOST LIZA, AND NOW YOU JUST WANT SOMEONE TO TRUST IN YOU!!

JJ...
...WHY DIDN'T YOU LOOK AWAY?
JJ...WHEN I... WHEN I POINTED MY GUN AT YOU--
I GUESS I JUST BELIEVED IN WHAT YOU TOLD ME.
YOU TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO THAT YOU HATED RAISING YOUR GUN AT ANYONE FOR ANY REASON.

MAX ?!
Vhhhhp
bamn
bamn
bamn
DON'T DO IT, MAX!! NO!!!

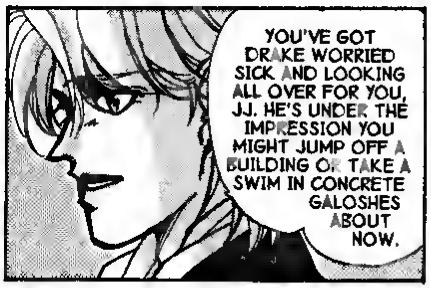
gust

rustle

WELL, GOD DAMN. AREN'T YOU A GOOD LISTENER? BUT YOU TOTALLY IGNORED MY LAST PIECE OF ADVICE.
WHAT A DAMNED FOOL YOU ARE...

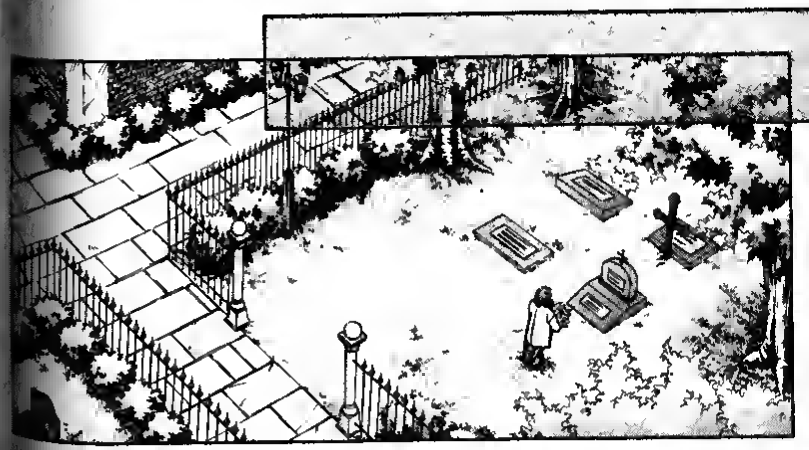
DON'T... DON'T TRUST... ANYONE...
LIKE ME.

HEY...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALL ALONE LOOKING LIKE A JILTED LOVER?
wipe


YOU'VE GOT DRAKE WORRIED SICK AND LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, JJ. HE'S UNDER THE IMPRESSION YOU MIGHT JUMP OFF A BUILDING OR TAKE A SWIM IN CONCRETE GALOSHES ABOUT NOW.

HEY.
YO.

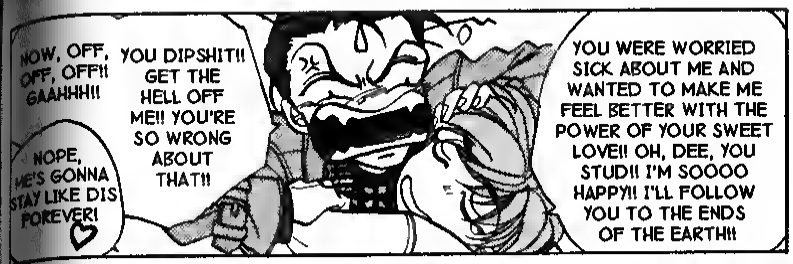
HE'S SUCH A WORRY-WART. I'M DEPRESSED, YEAH, BUT I DON'T PLAN ON COMMITTING SUICIDE ANYTIME SOON, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

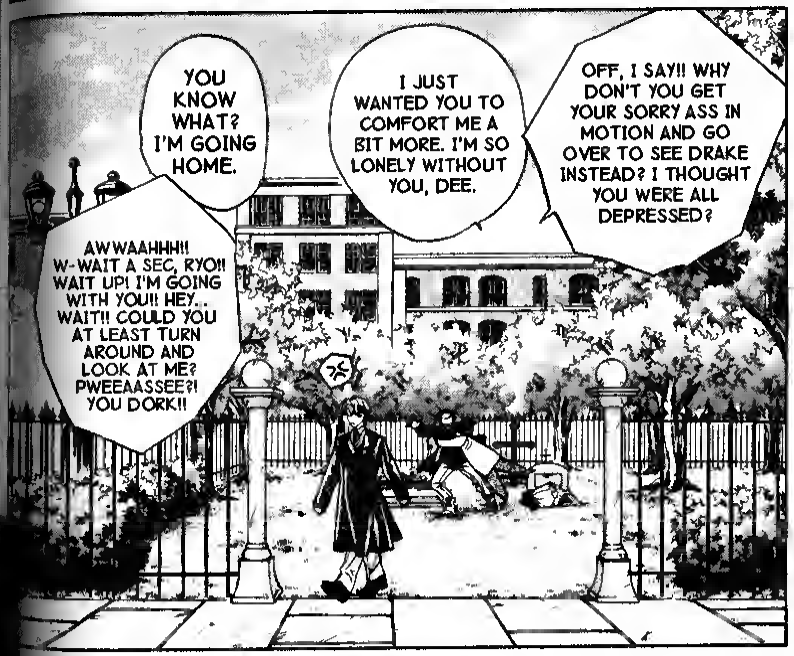


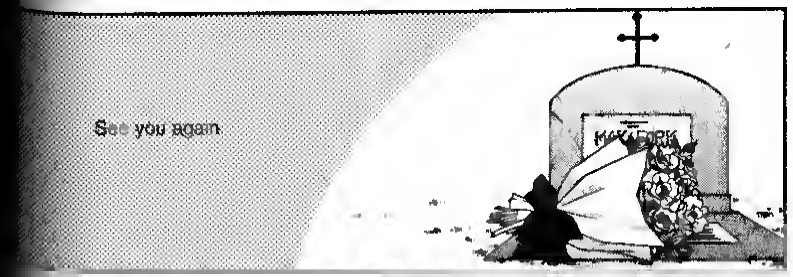
HE DID WHAT HE DID BECAUSE I BELIEVED IN HIM. I THINK SO, ANYWAY.
WELL, URM, YEAH.
YOU'RE BEING PRETTY NICE TO ME TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF TNIS TIME, OKAY?
HEY.
fluff
JJ...
ISN'T IT, TOUGH GUY?
IT'S LOVE...
ACK.
sparkle sparkle
I MEAN, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. I'M NOT COMPLETELY HEARTLESS.
AM I?!
...

MAX WAS WANTED FOR KILLING A COP BACK IN L.A. AS WELL AS FOR TAKING CONFISCATED ITEMS OUT OF STORAGE...
TO SELL TO TNE MOB.
COINCIDENCE, REALLY. WE HAPPENED TO RECEIVE A WARRANT FOR MAX'S ARREST ABOUT THEN.
BY THE WAY...HOW DID YOU KNOW TO FIND ME IN THE STORAGE ROOM?
...AND FAXED A COPY OF MAX'S ARREST WARRENT TO POLICE STATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
ONE OF MAX'S ACCOMPLICES GOT COLD FEET AND SQUEALED ON NIM. GAVE MAX'S NAME UP AS THE RING LEADER OF TNE ENTIRE OPERATION...
ALMOST EXPECTING TO GET SNOT. OR MAYBE I'M READING TOO MUCH INTO THINGS? I DON'T KNOW...
...I COULDN'T NELP BUT TNINK TNAT NE, TNAT MAX...WELL, IT WAS LIKE NE TURNED TO US ON PURPOSE. KNOWING TNAT NE'D GET SNOT...
I SEE...
WNEN WE CHARGED INTO TNE STORAGE ROOM...
YES?
JJ? I WAS WON-DERING...

FAKE act. 16


NOW, OFF, OFF, OFF!! GAAHHH!!
NOPE, HE'S GONNA STAY LIKE DIS FOREVER!
YOU DIPSHIT!! GET THE HELL OFF ME!! YOU'RE SO WRONG ABOUT THAT!!
YOU WERE WORRIED SICK ABOUT ME AND WANTED TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER WITH THE POWER OF YOUR SWEET LOVE!! OH, DEE, YOU STUD!! I'M SOOOO HAPPY!! I'LL FOLLOW YOU TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!!


YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M GOING HOME.
I JUST WANTED YOU TO COMFORT ME A BIT MORE. I'M SO LONELY WITHOUT YOU, DEE.
OFF, I SAY!! WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR SORRY ASS IN MOTION AND GO OVER TO SEE DRAKE INSTEAD? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL DEPRESSED?
AWWAAHHH!! W-WAIT A SEC, RYO!! WAIT UP! I'M GOING WITH YOU!! HEY.. WAIT!! COULD YOU AT LEAST TURN AROUND AND LOOK AT ME? PWEEAASSEE?! YOU DORK!!



FAKE act.15 / The End.

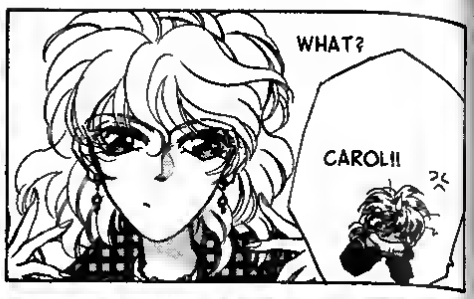
FAKE

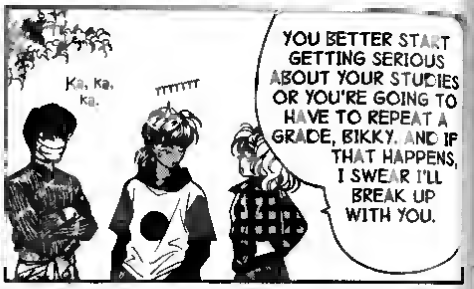
act. 16

snap
UWA AHHH HHH HH!!
GOD DAMN IT, WAKE THE HELL UP, YOU SLEEPY APE!!
BESIDES, I'M TAKING TIME OUT OF MY BUSY SCHEDULE TO HELP YOUR STUPID MONKEY ASS WITH SCHOOLWORK.
anger
anger
SO WHAT'S UP WITH FALLING ASLEEP ON ME OF ALL PEOPLE, HUH?
Nose finger
IF YOU HAVE THE BALLS TO FALL ASLEEP ON PEOPLE TRYING TO HELP YOU, I'M SURE A SCARE HERE OR THERE WON'T KILL YOU!! AND, FACE IT DUDE--IF IT DID, THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, LAI--GIVE ME A FRIGGIN' HEART ATTACK OR SOMETHING? WHOA--THAT SCARED THE PISS OUT OF ME.

FAKE

LAII! BIK-KY!!


WHAT?
CAROL!!

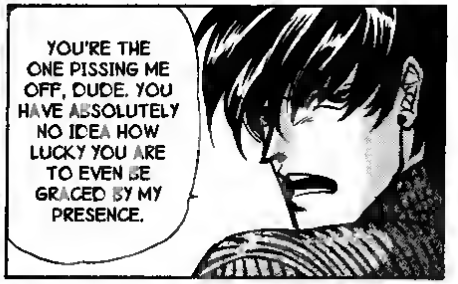

Ka, ka, ka.
YOU BETTER START GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR STUDIES OR YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO REPEAT A GRADE, BIKKY. AND IF THAT HAPPENS, I SWEAR I'LL BREAK UP WITH YOU.

OKAY, NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE, HOW ABOUT WE FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO STUDY?
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.
DON'T BE. I JUST GOT HERE MYSELF.
Pant
HEY, CAROL. SORRY I WAS LATE, GUYS.

TO RECOGNIZE IF A TEACHING STYLE'S GOOD OR BAD.
LIKE ANYONE WITH AN I.Q. COMPARABLE TO HIS SHOE SIZE HAS GOT ENOUGH SMARTS...
What did you say?
I haven't learned anything since we started
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? I JUST GOT SLEEPY ALL OF A SUDDEN. MAYBE IT'S NOT ME, IT'S REALLY JUST THAT YOU SUCK AT THIS WHOLE TUTORING THING.

WHAT?! YOU WANT A FIGHT, YOU GOT IT. BRING IT ON, MIDGET MONKEY!
AND I DON'T PLAN ON GETTING AN IDEA ABOUT IT EVER, YOU SHORT-LEGGED FOOL!
bastard
Zaah
Kick

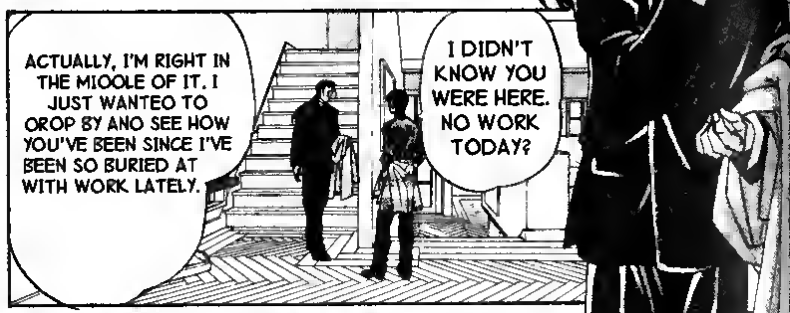
YOU KNOW, LAI-- YOU'RE REALLY PISSING ME OFF WITH ALL THAT MONKEY-IDIOT NAME-CALLING CRAP.
You sound just like Dee!
glare


YOU'RE THE ONE PISSING ME OFF, DUDE. YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO EVEN BE GRACED BY MY PRESENCE.

STREETTGGHHHIE
AA ARR GGG AAH HHH.
OH JUST STOP IT ALREADY, BIKKY.

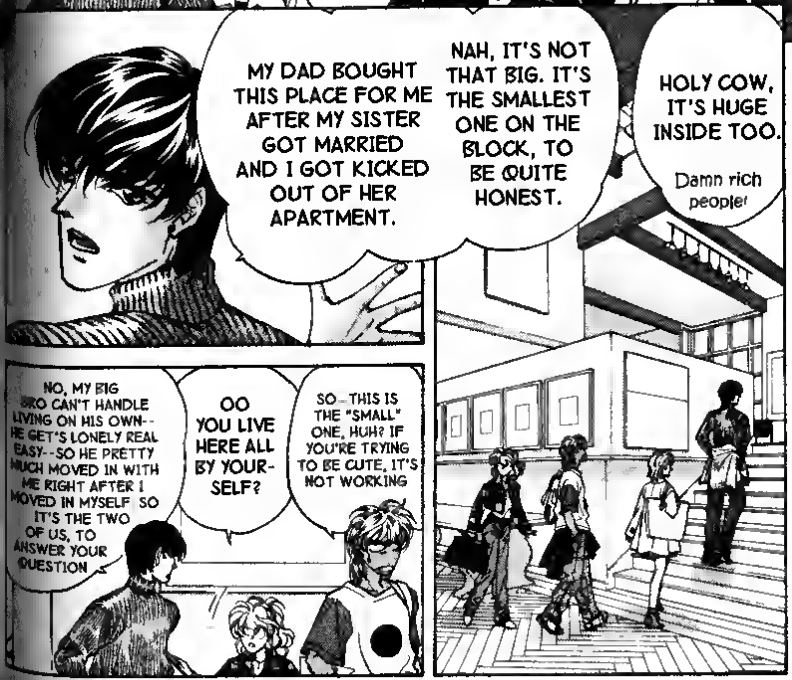
?!
LAI?
YOU BACK ALREADY ?

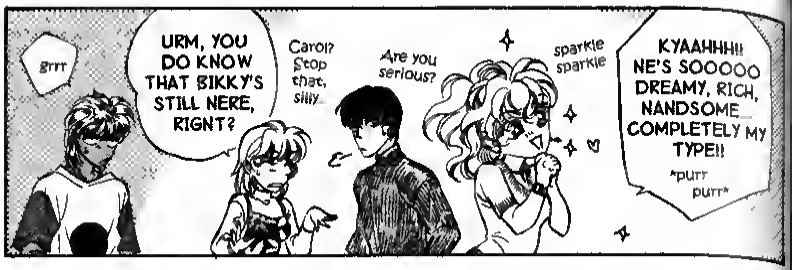
HI, LAW.


ACTUALLY, I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. I JUST WANTED TO DROP BY AND SEE HOW YOU'VE BEEN SINCE I'VE BEEN SO BURIED AT WITH WORK LATELY.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE. NO WORK TODAY?

I'M GOOD. OH, AND BY THE WAY, MY FRIENDS ARE GOING TO SLEEP OVER TONIGHT.
THIS IS BIKKY, AND THAT'S CAROL. YOU ALREADY KNOW LASS, RIGHT?

WHOA!!
I just got used to it recently, so don't feel so bad

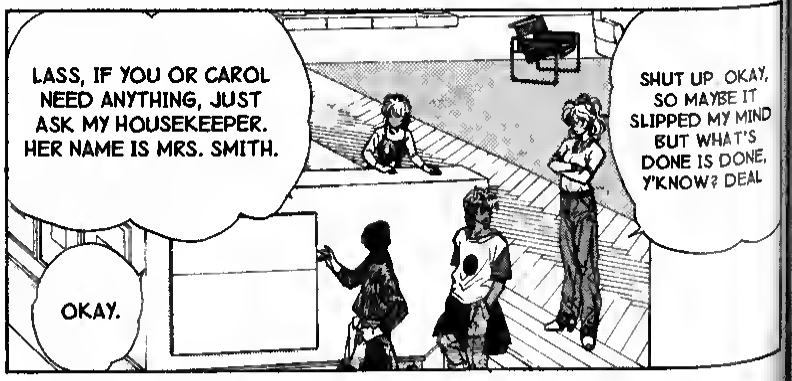

MY DAD BOUGHT THIS PLACE FOR ME AFTER MY SISTER GOT MARRIED AND I GOT KICKED OUT OF HER APARTMENT.
NAH, IT'S NOT THAT BIG. IT'S THE SMALLEST ONE ON THE BLOCK, TO BE QUITE HONEST.
HOLY COW, IT'S HUGE INSIDE TOO.
Damn rich people!
NO, MY BIG BRO CAN'T HANDLE LIVING ON HIS OWN-- HE GET'S LONELY REAL EASY--SO HE PRETTY MUCH MOVED IN WITH ME RIGHT AFTER I MOVED IN MYSELF SO IT'S THE TWO OF US, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION
OO YOU LIVE HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?
SO--THIS IS THE "SMALL" ONE, HUH? IF YOU'RE TRYING TO BE CUTE, IT'S NOT WORKING


grrr
URM, YOU DO KNOW THAT BIKKY'S STILL HERE, RIGHT?
Carol? Stop that, silly.
Are you serious?
sparkle sparkle
KYAAHHH!! HE'S SOOOOO DREAMY, RICH, HANDSOME... COMPLETELY MY TYPE!!
purr purr

TO SCHOOL.
EH? WHERE ARE YOU TWO GOING?
TO GET HIS BOOKS.

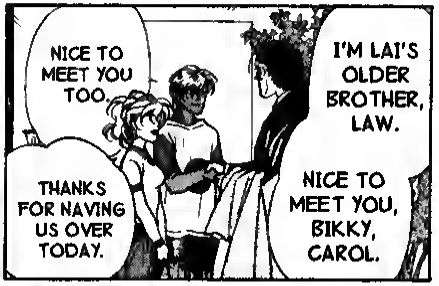
OH, OKAY.
OH HEY, BIKKY. LET'S HEAD OUT BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE, DUDE

YOU FORGOT TO BRING YOUR SCHOOL BOOKS TO A STUDY SLEEP-OVER? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!
What a dummy.


LASS, IF YOU OR CAROL NEED ANYTHING, JUST ASK MY HOUSEKEEPER. HER NAME IS MRS. SMITH.
OKAY.
SHUT UP. OKAY, SO MAYBE IT SLIPPED MY MIND BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, Y'KNOW? DEAL

DON'T THANK ME FOR ANYTHING. JUST MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.

HEY THERE, LASS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT?
NI YOURSELF, LAW.


I'M LAI'S OLDER BROTHER, LAW.
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
NICE TO MEET YOU, BIKKY, CAROL.
THANKS FOR NAVING US OVER TODAY.

OH, AL AND LEI SAID THEY'D STOP BY LATER.
I'LL BE BACK FOR DINNER THOUGH.
SORRY I CAN'T STAY AND CHAT RIGHT NOW, BUT I'VE STILL GOT QUITE A BIT OF WORK TO DO.

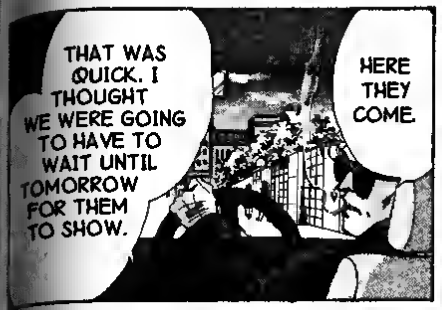
SOOOO. HOW OLD IS YOUR BROTHER, LAI?
HUH? URM, I THINK HE'S 29.
SINGLE?
AS FAR AS I KNOW.
push

Bye.

HMMM. I THINK THE CLOSEST ONE AROUND HERE WOULD BE...
I'M NOT FROM AROUND HERE SO... LAI, ANY IDEAS?

PsssthhhHHHHHH!
WAAH!

cough
hack
URRGGHH!
WHAT IS THIS STUFF?!


THAT WAS QUICK. I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW FOR THEM TO SHOW.
HERE THEY COME.

IT'S THE ASIAN. NOW MOVE OUT.
HEY, THERE'RE TWO OF 'EM. WHICH ONE SHOULD I NAB?

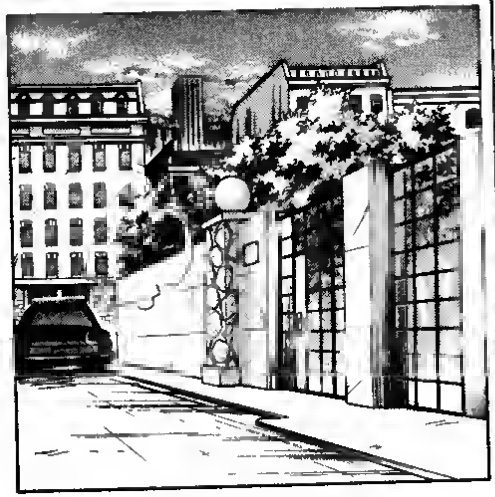
HEY.

URR, EXCUSE ME...CAN YOU SPARE A MINUTE?

MY CAR BROKE DOWN NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU MIGHT KNOW OF ANY GARAGES OR GAS STATIONS IN THE AREA?

LET GO, KID!!

HEY! NO GUNS!!
JUST THROW HIM IN THE TRUNK TOO!!



LAI!

KNOW, KNOW.
Screeech.
HURRY UP AND GET HIM IN THE CAR!

Grab

!!

pant
WAIT!

LAI. I CAN FEEL HIM..

THIS IS, WAIT, I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. THIS IS THE HEAD OFFICE BUILDING...
WHERE LAW WORKS. THE ONE IN MANHATTAN.

!!

SpFFFtt!!
LAI!!
clatter

INTO MANHATTAN. TO THE SPENCER HEAD OFFICE!! LAI AND BIKKY ARE THERE RIGHT NOW!! UNCONSCIOUS!!

HUH? WHAT? GO?
WE HAVE TO GO NOW, CAROL!!
GO WHERE, LASS?!

YEAH..
IT'S CALLED A PHONE. JUST PICK UP AND CALL, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!

SHEESH!!
WHAT'S TAKING THOSE TWO SO LONG?!

LAI? WHERE ARE YOU?
LASS? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

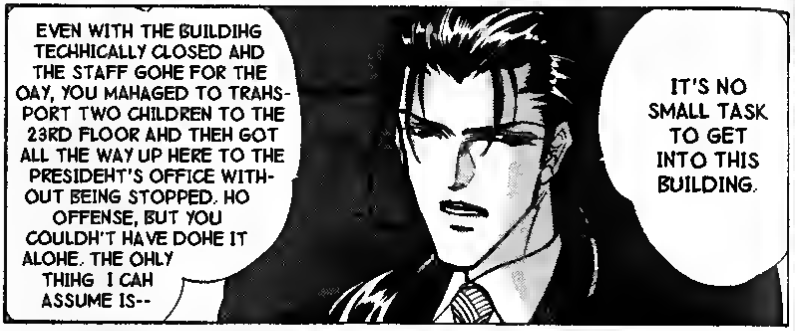
WHAT ABOUT IT?
THIS BUILDING--
HUH?!
IT'S THE HEAD OFFICE BUILDING OF MY FAMILY'S COMPANY!!
YEAH. AND ACTUALLY, IT HAPPENED TO ME ONCE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. THAT TIME...
IT TURNED OUT THE KIDNAPPER WAS MY DAD'S PERSONAL SECRETARY.
WAIT A SECOND. I'M ASSUMING THIS IS A KIDNAPPING, SO WHY THE HECK WOULD THEY HIDE US IN YOUR VERY OWN BUILDING?!
DOES THAT TYPE OF STUFF REALLY HAPPEN?
I HAVE NO IDEA...UNLESS THE CULPRIT'S SOMEONE WHO WORKS FOR THE COMPANY.

Vinyl tape?
WHAT THE HELL... IS GOING ON HERE?
stretch
NNNN..
KU.. OWWW..
sit
LAI?
NN.. NN.. NNNN.
BUT OTHER THAN THAT, I DON'T HAVE A CLUE.
LOOKS LIKE MANHATTAN TO ME...
WHERE ARE WE?
NNN... YEAH, I THINK SO.
YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHOA-- I'M STILL KIND OF DIZZY.

I SAID, I'LL TRUST YOU.
WHAT?!
Ka ka ka
GUESS THAT MADE YOUR DAY, HUH? YOUR FACE IS TOTALLY CROOKED. HOLY CRAP, THAT MIGHT EVEN BE A SMILE.
Heh. heh
NOW, NOW, KIDDIES. HAVING A MINI MUTINY, ARE WE?
open
GRR. WHAT?!
YEAH, WHATEVER. HAVING YOUR TRUST IS MORE LIKE A CURSE IF YOU ASK ME. HMMPH!!
I BELIEVE THAT'S MY LINE, YOU DUMB MONKEY!!
YOU SERIOUSLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO EVEN BE ALLOWED IN MY COMPANY, DO YOU, ASSWIPE!

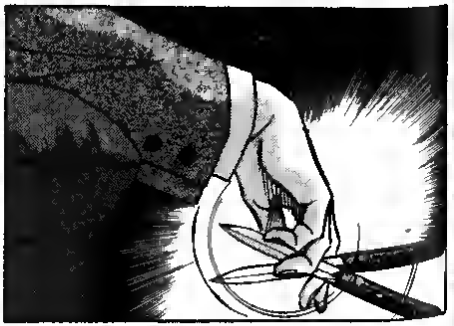
IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, I SUPPOSE— WE TRUST SOMEONE, BUT THEY NEVER TRULY TRUST US BACK
--BUT I GUESS THAT SECRETARY NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD HOW MUCH MY DAD TRUSTED HIM.
MY DAD REALLY TRUSTED HIM TOO--
HE WAS REALLY NICE TO ME.
SORRY, DUDE. I DIDN'T MEAN TO DAMPEN THE MOOD.
WHAT?
I'LL TRUST YOU.

WHAT?!
NOW, PRAY TELL, WHO SENT YOU TO PERFORM THIS STUNT OF YOURS?


EVEN WITH THE BUILDIHG TECHHICALLY CLOSED AHD THE STAFF GOHE FOR THE OAY, YOU MAHAGED TO TRAHSPORT TWO CHILDREN TO THE 23RD FLOOR AHD THEH GOT ALL THE WAY UP HERE TO THE PRESIDEHT'S OFFICE WITHOUT BEING STOPPED. HO OFFENSE, BUT YOU COULDH'T HAVE DOHE IT ALOHE. THE OHLY THIHG I CAH ASSUME IS--
IT'S NO SMALL TASK TO GET INTO THIS BUILDING.

HEY, NOW. LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING YOU'LL REGRET. I'M WELL AWARE OF YOUR PROWESS WITH A KNIFE, YOU SEE.

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL FIGURED OUT, DON'T YOU? GO SCREW YOURSELF.
--THAT YOU HAO IHSIOE HELP. ANO NOT JUST ANYONE. SOMEONE WITH QUITE A BIT OF RESPONSIBILITY, I SUSPECT.
creak



A CAM-ERA?

SORRY TO BARGE IH ON YOUR SPECIAL MOMENT, BUT WE WERE HOPIHG TO GET YOUR COOPERATIOH WITH A LITTLE PROJECT OF OURS.

THAT'S RIGHT. NOW SMILE... YOU WANT TO LOOK NICE FOR YOUR BROTHER UPSTAIRS.

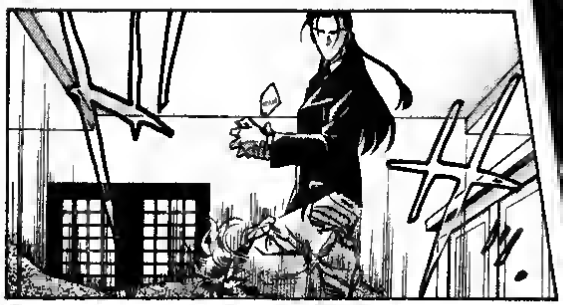
FOR LAW?

IF YOU'O LIKE TO SAVE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER HERE, WE'D APPRECIATE A DOHATIOH OF $50 MILLION TO THE SPECIFIED ACCOUHT. BUT ACT SOON OR, WELL...YOU KHOW THE DRILL, OOH'T YOU?
AS YOU CAN SEE, BOSS MAN, WE'RE CURRENTLY TRANSMITTING LIVE FROM THE WAITING ROOM ON THE 23RD FLOOR.

grab
WHAT THE--?!
EH?
THEN TRUST ME NOW!
vssssh
crash

YEAH. EASIEST WORK I'VE DONE IN A LONG TIME.
HA. LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING GOOD. SHOULD BE OVER SOON, EH?
AND USE THAT PC OF YOURS TO DIRECT $50 MILLION OUR WAY, HMM?
SO WHY DON'T YOU GET YOUR FINGERS MOVING...
BIKKY.
HMM?
DIDN'T YOU?
YOU SAID YOU'D BELIEVE IN ME BACK THERE.
YEAH.

UGG YAAA AHHH HHH HHH HH HH H !!
WHAT THE HELL?!
Vhhhp
Crash
LA!!!
JUMP OUT!!
Pyank
WHAT?!



PLEASE REPORT TO THE WAITING ROOM ON THE 23RD FLOOR. I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND A COUPLE OF TRESPASSERS THERE.
Yes, Sir
SECURITY.

GWAHHH!!

WELL, THAT'S THAT, I SUPPOSE.

I'VE GOT ONE OF THEM SPRAWLED OUT ON MY FLOOR. WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, HAVE ALL THE EXITS SEALED AND CALL THE POLICE, WOULD YOU?
AND HAVE SOMEONE VISIT MY OFFICE AS WELL.

GOOD.
WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE, SIR.

whhhpppp
ARRG GHHH!!
slassh

LAI!!
YOU ALL RIGHT THERE, BIKKY?
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW? I COULD HAVE SWORN I WAS.. FLOATING?!
WHAT THE HELL S GOING ON? WHY AM I STILL ALIVE?
CAROL!
LASS!!
OH MY GOSH!! THEY REALLY WERE HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
LAI!!
grip
WHOA
Yo, Carol

float
gakun
WE MADE IT!!
phew
tap

DID YOU EVER FIND OUT WHO WAS BEHIND THE KIDNAPPING, LAW?
HEH, HEH. AWWW, THANKS.
IT SEEMS THAT WAY, DOESN'T IT? I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, LAI.
YOU SURE HAVE A LOT MORE THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT ONCE YOU TAKE OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF A LARGE COMPANY.
I'VE ALREADY ADVISED THE POLICE OF A POSSIBLE SUSPECT, NOT TO MENTION THEY'VE GOT THOSE THREE OTHER KIDNAPPERS IN CUSTODY.
I'M SURE THE POLICE CAN TAKE IT FROM THERE.
I KNOW, I KNOW. BUT LOOK, THINGS TURNED OUT WELL IN THE END, SO LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
YUP, I AGREE.
You really do have a brother complex, don't you?
SHEESH! STOP SUCKING UP TO HIM LIKE THAT.
OW!
AND YOU NEED TO HELP LAW OUT BY STAYING OUT OF TROUBLE, LAI! TAKE THAT.
bop
I'M FINE, SEE? COULDN'T BE BETTER.
LAI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU. THEN I SAW YOU INSIDE A BIG BUILDING BUT YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS AND I GOT SOOOO SCARED--
MAYBE IT WAS TELEPATHY. OR NOT-- JUST KIDDNG.
HUH? UHM, I MEANT, URM, LIKE, I GOT THIS, WELL, ODD FEELING THAT...THAT'S WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN, UHM, DOING?
stare
AND YOU SAW HIM? UNCON-SCIOUS?!
WAIT A SECOND-- HE WAS IN A BUILD-ING?
perk
d'oh!
URM, YES. THAT SOUNDS LIKE A VERY GOOD IDEA. BESIDES, AL AND LEI ARE DROPPING BY TOO, SO WE SHOULD HURRY, RIGHT?
stare —
stiff
stiff
GEE, I SURE AM HUNGRY ALL OF A SUDDEN. WHY DON'T WE LET LAW HANDLE THINGS HERE AND GO HOME AND CHOW DOWN, HUH? AH HA HA.

ACK.
UH UH, NO WAY!!
AND WHAT WAS THAT, EXACTLY? AN INTELLIGENT THOUGHT?
YOU CAN TRY TO WEASEL AROUND IT BY CREATING A COZY LITTLE ATMOSPHERE WITH YOUR FAMILY, BUT I'M ON TO YOU, AND I KNOW WHAT I EXPERIENCED!!
I KNOW WHAT I FELT, DAMN IT!! I WAS FLOATING!!
NOW, NOW, BIKKY. SETTLE DOWN A MOMENT. I THINK YOUR ADRENALINE'S STILL PUMPING AFTER OUR LITTLE ADVENTURE.
I FELT WEIGHTLESS, AND THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD HAVE SURVIVED A FALL FROM 23 STORIES UP IF IT HADN'T HAPPENED!! IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE!!
I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT RIGHT BEFORE WE HIT THE GROUND, I WAS FLOATING IN THE AIR FOR A SECOND OR TWO!
AND HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE!! I REMEMBER HAVING SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN TO ME BEFORE TOO!!

Note: See "FAKE" Act 10 in Volume 3 for more info

Note: And if you still don't get it, then please go out and get my comic, "RA-I" published through Zero Comics

YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE SENSITIVE TO THINGS AROUND ME THAN ANYONE ELSE. I DON'T KNOW WHY.
AND YOU, LASS!! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S JUST A BIT WEIRD THAT YOU KNEW THE EXACT PLACE BIKKY AND LAI WERE? CONFESS, DARN IT!!
AS IF, ASSWIPE!! I WOULDN'T TRUST MY HANGNAIL TO THE LIKES OF YOU!!
WOULD YOU JUST GIVE UP ALREADY? IF I'M TELLING YOU IT WAS YOUR IMAGINATION, IT WAS, OKAY? 'SIDES, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU TRUSTED ME BACK THERE?
NOPE. I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING ANYTHING OF THE SORT.
OH, SO YOU NEVER SAID, "I'LL TRUST YOU," TO ME WHEN WE WERE CAPTURED TOGETHER?

Note: Already redirected to another argument

After Talk in FAKE 5 Five.

FAKE.V

WHETHER IT'S PICTURES OR WORDS, I'M STILL SUPER-SLOW AT BOTH DRAWING AND WRITING. PLEASE FORGIVE THE LACK OF BOTH IN THIS VOLUME AND THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PURCHASING FAKE V!!!

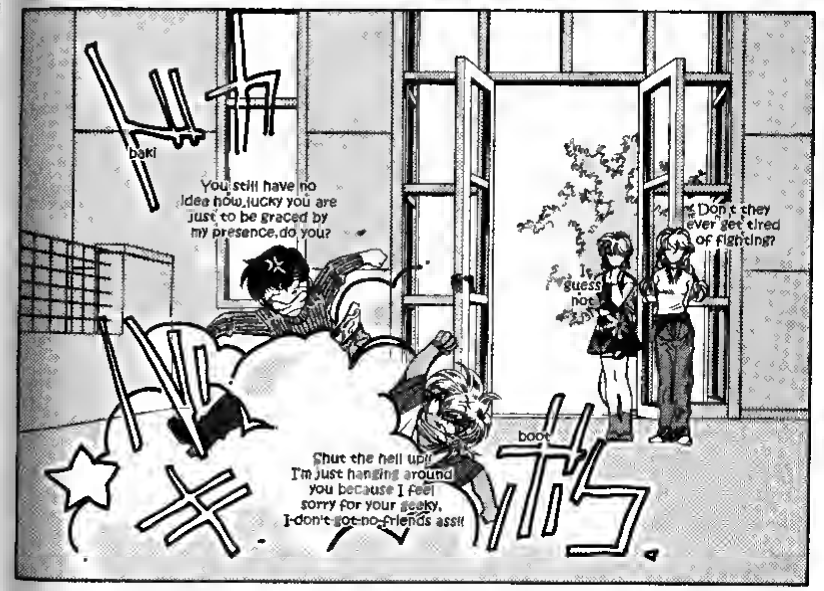
Go! Go! Bikky

ANOTHER BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE, BIKKY!! THANKS (AND SORRY) FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!!

I CAN'T ASSUME THAT--JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE THIS VOLUME--YOU ALSO HAVE VOLUME 4, BUT JUST SO YOU KNOW, VOLUME 4 IS ONE OF MY PERSONAL FAVES.

I JUST HAVEN'T HAD ANY FREE TIME AT ALL--I'M TOTALLY SORRY THAT THIS IS ALL THE TALK YOU'RE GOING TO GET FROM ME

AND I KNOW I'VE GOT ABSOLUTELY NO ENGLISH LANGUAGE SENSE, BUT I'M GONNA KEEP CHALLENGING MYSELF, DARN IT!! RAWR!! I'LL TRY EVEN HARDER FOR VOLUME 6!!


baki
You still have no idea how lucky you are just to be graced by my presence, do you?
Don't they ever get tired of fighting?
I guess not.
boom
Shut the hell up!! I'm just hanging around you because I feel sorry for your geeky, I-don't-got-no-friends ass!!

FAKE act.16 / The End.

COMING IN MARCH

-FAKE-

VOLUME SIX

A psychopath is on the loose, killing kids and cutting off their hands. Carol catches the killer's eye and it's up to Bikky, Dee, and Ryo to take the situation into their own hands to save her!

As if that weren't enough, Ryo gets an in-depth look at Dee's parentless childhood and the man who inspired Dee to become a cop. But when a little too much information ahout Dee's de facto dad comes to light, it could destroy Dee's two greatest passions: police work and Ryo!